







How to use the education league tables - Section Two



THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 1995



How many more did they kill?

Ten life sentences for Rosemary West as police name other possible victims

WILL BENNETT

Would in fans vot

Rosemary West was sentenced to spend the rest of her life in jail after the jury at Winchester Crown Court decided yesterday that she was guilty of 10 murders, including the killing of her

daughter and stepdaughter. But Rosemary and Frederick West's murderous tally does not end there.

Frederick West probably killed more than 30 women, sometimes alone often in a deadly partnership with his wife. Together they were Britain's biggest serial killers.

As soon as the sentences were handed down by Mr Justice Mantell, there were immediate calls for an inquiry into how the pair could have operated under the noses of the authorities for so long. It is believed that West was visited by police and social service officers on around 60 separate occasions.

Gloucestershire Police defended their record. "Hindsight is a wonderful thing," said Detective Superintendent John Octective Superintendent John
Bennett, who led the West murler inquiry.

The trial ended dramatical
Green Prison, Birmingham, on
New Year's Day.
On Tuesday, the jury of seven men and four women Bennett, who led the West murder inquiry.

ly, with a shout of "hooray" from convicted Rosemary West of the public gallery, as the seven remaining verdicts were announced by the male jury West, aged 41, had been found guilty of three murders on Tues-

She showed no emotion as the judge told her: "On each of the ten counts of murder on which you have been unanimously convicted by the jury, the sentence is one of life imprisonment."

"If attention is paid to what I think, you will never be released," he said before telling prison warders: "Take her down." She will serve her sentence in the women's wing of Durham maximum security jail, which also houses Myra Hindley.

Throughout the 31-day trial, she had denied murdering the ten girls and young women whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at the Wests' previous home in the city.

The prosecution alleged that she had been involved "up to her neck" with her husband in the killings. Seven of the victims had been stripped, tied up, gagged and kept alive for days while they were sexually abused.

But she said she knew nothing about the murders, which she blamed on her husband. Frederick West confessed to 11 of the 12 murders with which he was charged. He committed suicide in his cell at Winson

murdering her eldest daughter. Heather, her stepdaughter, Charmaine West, and Shirley pregnant by her husband.

hours of deliberation and having spent two nights in a hotel, the jury convicted her of mur-dering Lynda Gough, Carol Cooper, Lucy Partington, Therese Siegenthaler, Shirley Hubbard, Juanita Mott and

in the Cromwell Street cellar. Convictions on the seven murder counts given yesterday had depended entirely on the discovery of the remains at Cromwell Street and "similar fact" evidence that the Wests had used gags and hindings in sexual assaults on three women

a terrifying end as sexual slaves

who survived. The jury returned at 12.25pm yesterday to ask the judge whether the absence of direct evidence against Rosemary West was an obstacle to guilty verdicts. He told them it that need not be, provided that they drew the same inferences from the evidence as had the prose-

At 12.52pm they returned with seven unanimous guilty verdicts. In the public gallery
Anne-Marie Davis, Rosemary
West's stepdaughter, who was
sexually abused by both the
Wests, clasped her hands together as in prayer. Afterwards Leo Goatley, Rosemary West's was commended by the judge for its "meticulous" inquiries. solicitor, said: "My client is toforeman vesterday. Rosemany Robinson, a lodger who was tally devastated. She wept uncontrollably after hearing the tancy, highlighted mistakes

Inside

The horror and anguish revealed, pages 2-6 Leading article, page 22 Women killers, Section Two

Yesterday, after more than 12 verdicts of the jury. She continues to maintain her innocence and retains the love and

support of her children."

Mr Goatley said that she would still fight the verdicts and that: "We are actively pursuing an appeal on her behalf." He condemned the media for Alison Chambers. They all met

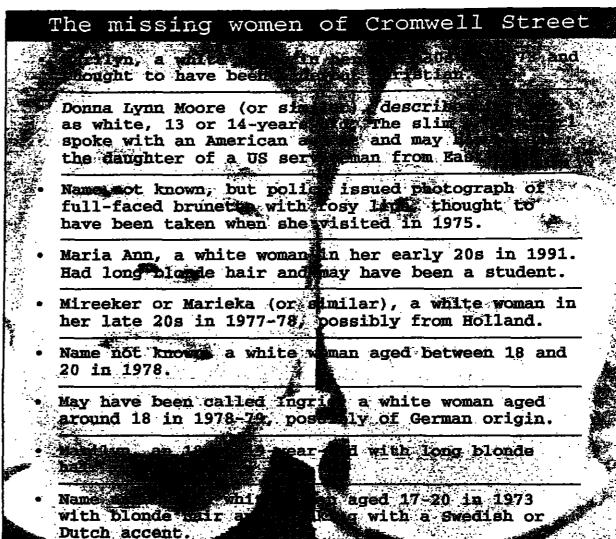
approaching witnesses for their stories."Freedom of expression and the right of the public to know does not include the intrusive press activity that has blighted these proceedings." Joan Owen, mother of Alison

Chambers, whose remains were found under the patio at Cromwell Street, said: "I am grateful that everyone in the country and the world knows exactly what those people did."

Kathryn Halliday, a key witness in the trial, who had described how she had an increasingly violent lesbian relationship with Rosemary West, said: "She is an evil woman. She should never come out."

Gloucestershire Police defended their record even though they failed to connect a

A report by The Bridge, an independent child care consulmade by health and social services. It also criticised the NSPCC for losing a crucial file. The NSPCC said that it "bitterly regretted" not having taken the case referred to it more se-



Names of the girls and women who passed through the Wests' home and have yet to be accounted for

Call for inquiry into social services



PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES AND COLIN BROWN

A public inquiry should be held into the repeated failure of local agencies to uncover the nightmare at the West home in Gloucester, Douglas French, MP for the city, said last night. The MP said the failures

trouble me very deeply. It is at the very heart of the matter."A personal distress hotline to ensure future abusers were never allowed again to practise evil with such impunity should be es-

tablished, he said. The total amount of information spread among the dif-ferent agencies – social services, police, health and education -would have been sufficient to set the alarm belis ringing. The problem was that no single agency had all the informa-tion."

from the tragic events was that incoming information must be collated at one point. There could be an equivalent to the 999 call - a personal distress hotline, say 666, that went across the country."

Had such a system been in operation, it was possible that some of the murders could have been avoided, the MP

The official report by the

Bridge consultancy catalogued a series of failures, including a failure to share information, but said that no child protection system in Britain could have predicted the catalogue of murders. Mr French said his hotline suggestion, and a discussion about its practical implementation, should be raised in a public inquiry to bring together all the expert opinion a cause for concern. We will

Mr French said a key lesson about the prevention of abuse. need to learn any lessons The Government was, howfrom it. ever, damping down expecta-tions of any fullscale inquiry. A Jack Straw, the shadow home

secretary, said: "This was an ap-Government source said: "It's very hard to lay down guidelines to deal with sex-mad killers who are very good at covering their tracks." It was pointed out that the first case involving the Wests took place before the Maria Colwell inquiry, after

which new procedures were put in place for the police to inform social services of suspectcd abusers. But there was concern among MPs. Peter Temple-Morris, Tory MP for Leominster, said: "It needs to be

examined now we have got this trial over with. The fact that such a large number of murders took place in the area, and that it was not discovered sooner, is

palling case almost beyond belief, and there will obviously need to be lessons to be learned about how so many people can go missing."
Peter Luff, Tory MP for Worcester, from where one of

the victims came, said: "If mistakes have been made, procedures will have to be reviewed urgently. There should be no excuses for any failures."

But Sir Ivan Lawrence OC. Tory chairman of the crossparty home affairs select committee, said: "Social services always take a hammering when something goes wrong like this, but they also take a hammering when they do too much to in-

Forte battles against Granada bid

IN BRIEF Bosnia peace hurdle

The Bosnia peace plan hit its first obstacles yesterday as senior Bosnian Serbs denounced it as a "big mistake". General Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic, meanwhile, kept silent in the face of war crimes Pages 18, 19

Turned off by politics

Britons are apathetic about politics, strongly punitive towards criminals, and want higher taxes for the rich, according to a new survey. Page 12

£2m-a-day delay

The Ministry of Defence was attacked by MPs for delays in a building project that cost the taxpayer £2m a week. Page 10

MATHEW HORSMAN AND JOHN SHEPHERD Sir Rocco Forte, Britain's most famous hotelier, was last night

desperately fighting off an un-wanted bid from Granada, despite the prospect of personally gaining £80m from the deal. In one of the largest hostile takeovers mounted in Britain,

Granada is offering £3.1bn for Forte, the largest British hotel operator, whose flagship is the Grosvenor House in London's Park Lane. The Forte family stands to gain about £250m for its stake if the bid succeeds. Granada, best known as pro-

ducers of the hit television series Cracker, Prime Suspect and Coronation Street, said the Forte business was badly managed and could be turned around. Gerry Robinson, head of Granada, said some of the hotels would be sold, raising as much as £500m.

Forte went on the defensive, advising shareholders to reject the bid, which "totally fails to recognise the value of Forte". Sir Rocco, a workaholic and former playboy, attacked Mr Robinson's "audacious" move. "He knows nothing about this business. He's not saying anything new. There are huge profit im-

provements available to us." Mr Robinson, who works at an easier pace, declaring most work to be "a waste of time", said his company was "finan-cially and managerially ready" for the challenge of taking on the Forte properties. The company has a large rentals, televi-

have been limited to sites on motorway services areas. Insiders at Forte suggested Granada did not have the managerial ability to run an international hotels business, Recently the industry has been one of the most affected by the

sion and catering business, but

its hotels operations to date

recession, resulting in sharply lower hotel-room charges and strangled profits for the main

Mr Robinson denied his team lacked the necessary managerial credentials and experience. "I didn't know anything about television, either, before I joined Granada," he said. Granada runs Granada and

the London Weekend Television franchises and has 27 service sites along main roads and motorways. It is also one of the two largest electronics rentals groups and is a BSkyB shareholder. Granada's own television interests have expanded

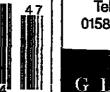
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takeover of LWT in 1993.

Analysts were expecting a higher offer from Granada in coming days, and said it might even have to pay as much as £3.9bn to succeed. They said a rival offer was unlikely.

The Forte dynasty, page 8 Vicious battle, page 24





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Chequers Road, Goudhurst, Kent TMT : JG

Police failures led to 20 years of murder

and WILL BENNETT

The police's failure to link a series of vital clues allowed Fred-erick and Rosemary West to continue their murdering spree for more than 20 years.

Gloucestershire Police force yesterday defended its actions despite being told that one of the Wests' visitors had disap-peared in 1973 and having carried out several drug raids at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, during the same period.

Furthermore, West was well known to the police and is understood to have been interviewed by them on dozens occasions before being arrested for murders. The police bad also been aware of the Wests' taste for sexual violence since the early 1970s. Yet it took until last year before detectives finally stopped the killings that were carried out just a few minutes' walk from the main police station in Gloucester.

Following yesterday's verdict Tony Butler, the Chief Constable of Gloucestershire, argued that in the 1970s there were far fewer checks and co-operation between the social services and the police was limited. "In 1995 it would be different," he said.

The key events, which if followed up could have snared the Wests two decades ago, began in 1972, when Caroline Owens, the couple's former nanny, told police that she had been sexually assaulted by the Wests after they had kidnapped her while hitch-hiking. In January 1973, the couple pleaded guilty to assault and indecent assault and were each fined £50.

Frederick West raped her during the attack but police dissuaded Mrs Owens, then 17, from pressing this charge. Officers said that she would face a cross-examination and the court would hear that she had had sex with two lodgers at 25 Cromwell Street.

Mrs Owens said: "The police said 'you slept with so and so, you did this, you did that', it made me feel really ashamed of myself. The police treated me really badly. They put me off going to court as well. I decided to cover it all up.

Mr Butler, said because Mrs Owens knew the Wests and was not a child, so there was no need to inform the social services at the time. In line with Gloucestershire's policy the files from this case were later destroyed by the police and with West with later incidents.

West was well known to the ginning in 1969 for non-payment of fines. The following

months for motor offences and

Three months after the Owens court case came the second vital clue. Lynda Gough, 19, went missing from her Gloucester home. Her mother, June, made inquiries and dis-covered that she had been visiting the Wests. When she went to Cromwell Street a man and a woman told her she had left. da's slippers and some of her clothing was on the washing line. Mrs Gough contacted a friend who was a police officer and told of her concern. The officer later told detectives that a missing persons' notice was filed. However, nothing happened and no link was made with the earlier court case.

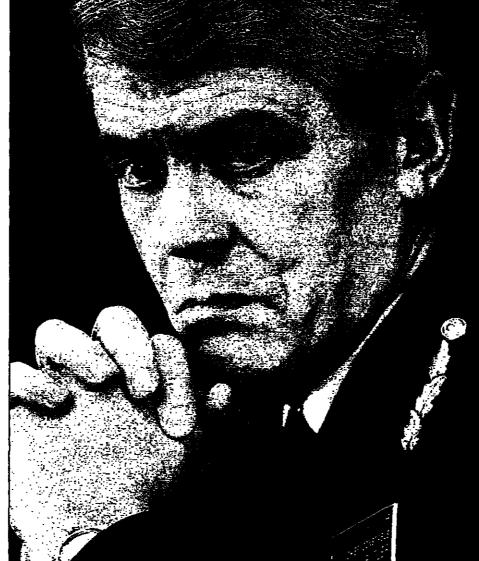
Gloucester police said yes-terday that it had no record of Lynda Gough having been re-ported missing. Astonishingly, it was about this time that a sep-arate section of the police force was regularly raiding 25 Cromwell Street. The Drugs Squad made up to six surprise visits to the house in 1972-73 af-ter being told that some of the

lodgers were smoking cannabis. Tragically they could never have known that while they searched for drugs Lynda Gough was probably already dead and buried just feet away. It was almost 20 years before police returned; this time as part of a child abuse investigation. In 1993, West was charged with raping and buggering a 13year-old girl and Rosemary with inciting him.

However, the case was halted after two key witnesses refused to give evidence. Police were unaware of the Wests' previous convictions for sexual assault because the official records had been destroyed.

But during the inquiry, De-tective Constable Hazel Savage became increasingly suspicious about the disappearance of the Wests' eldest daughter, Heather, who had not been seen since June 1987. Her inquiries eventually led to the police visiting 25 Cromwell Street on 24 February 1994. At the time they thought they were only looking for the remains of Heather West, but were soon to discover the full horror hidden in the West home.

Detective Superintendent John Bennett, who headed the murder inquiry, yesterday described the Wests as 'Jekyli and Hyde" characters. Asked whether the police should have them all details of the attack, stopped the Wests years ago, he thing. You have to look at these things in light of what was happolice at the time and was pening in the 1970s and not try and look at them with 1990s values ... added to the excuses the Wests were able to make. They





Called to account: Gloucestershire's Chief Constable, Tony Butler (left), and Jeff James (right), chief executive of the health authority, answer questions Photographs: Dillon Bryden

Agencies failed to heed 'warning bells'

NICHOLAS TIMMINS Public Policy Editor

Education, health, social services and the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children all failed to spot what was happening in the West household despite a range of contacts over more than 30 years, an independent review of the agencies involved said yes-

That came despite Chairmaine and Anne Marie being placed with foster parents five times between 1965 and 1970 when the first of West's murders pital contacts; a reference to the NSPCC in 1989; and the disappearance of Charmaine when an eight-year-old schoolgirl.

The explanation that she had simply moved back to her nat-

"without question", the report from the independent Bridge consultancy said.

In 1987, West told a school he had "laid out" a child - an incident of abuse which should have been reported to social services. In March 1989, the school did contact the NSPCC about "physical abuse". When contacted, the teenager made

In May, the society was told the child had been hit with a mallet - an injury recorded in sledge hammer". But NSPCC notes say a satisfactory explanation was given. At the same time, and unknown to the NSPCC, a paediatrician was investigating child protection is- tems existed and even with the

NSPCC's embarrassment, the file on the case has gone miss-

Bridge report: 'Web of deceit' fooled professionals over 30 years

which put the youngest children into care and eventually led to the murder inquiry. Jim Harding, chief executive of the NSPCC, said we "bitterly regret that we didn't take a different approach" and there were important lessons to be learnt. The society informed neither the health or social ser-

ing - shredded or stolen after

the 1992 child abuse inquiry

remarkable" how the West family managed for 30 years to bypass the child protection system. But in the early 1970s only minimal child protection sysural mother was accepted sues. To compound the benefit of hindsight no child

protection system in the UK could have predicted that the case involved serial killings. Between 1965 and 1970,

Charmaine and Anne Marie were in an out of care, but at West's request. When the children were visited at home, Gloucestershire social services say, there was no sign of abuse. "The Wests were regarded as just another poor family struggling against the odds."

The children were discharged back to the care of West and Rosemary, herself only 16 and to dismiss the children's talk of orrhoea, another was taken in just our of care. But Fred said Rena had returned. The case

Dobbs, who had paid Rosemary

after she told him West was having sex with the children. But he made an anonymous call, and said only that the children were being left alone. The file on that case has also been lost.

Michael Honey, Gloucestershire's chief executive, said yesterday that no-one told social services about abuse until 1992 -when within 48 hours the children were taken into care.

The Bridge report says those involved should be commended as it would have been easy Heather being buried under the patio as bizarre "fantasy".

Social services then had no contact until 1988 when Arthur Dobbs, who had noid Down-Dobbs, who had paid Rosemary sight," Mr Honey said. Today, for sex, contacted social services sight, "Mr Honey said. Today, the "warning bells" in the West

Media deals prompt new

case would be heard, he said. These included the Wests convictions in 1972 when they tied up and sexually assaulted Caroline Owens, 17, their former nanny. But the Wests were fined only £50 and the case was not referred to social services.

In addition, between 1972 and 1992, the eight children from the West family were treated 31 times in casualty - a rate the Bridge report says was not unusual. However, hidden in the mass

of notes were "worrying signs" - several family members had thrush and one child had gonadmitted, age 15, carrying what and with an ectopic pregnancy.

Vengeful masses celebrate the exorcism of a banal evil

Rosemary West, a hopeful gold cross at her throat, was impassive, even when the judge told her: "If attention is paid to what I think, you will never be released.' And suddenly she was gone.

After eight weeks the whole show was over in four minutes. There were no judicial lectures on evil. nothing. The very air of the courtroom

seemed stunned by the brevity of the moment. I doubted the evidence of my ears. Was that it? It was. An evil had been exorcised. We could all go home. Winchester subsided. There

was nothing more to be said. Previously jovial, Mr Justice Mantell's manner had hardened on the final day. When, at 12.20, the jury returned to ask two questions about the lack of direct evidence in the case, he spoke with a new impatience.

But the questions came as a relief to the rest of us. Something had at last shifted inside the jury room. "Back before lunch," we said confidently. And they were - at 12.53 - to find Rosemary guilty of the re-maining seven charges.

Nobody has said that the story of Rosemary and Fred West exposed a culture in de-cay. That's what they said about the murder of Jamie Bulger. Nobody has seriously claimed



that the West case offered a unique insight into the nature of evil. That's what they said about the Moors murders.

They say neither of those things because the West atrocities were peculiarly ordinary. They happened in a nondescript house in a nondescript street. They involved "kinky" sexual practices that, though often called bizarre, are, in fact, absurdly familiar. Even the details of the case - the concreting of the cellar, the patio - had a cosy DIY ring to them. This was evil, certainly, but it was evil at its most thoroughly banal.

Perhaps that is why the atmosphere in the court in this final week was so subdued. Sure, fatigue had set in after eight weeks. But there was more to it than that. There was a deeper feeling of routine, a sense of the familiar absurdity of it all even of the most gruesome details - a sense, tasteless as it may seem, of comedy.

predictably smart clothes and with her weirdly glossy, pre-dictably brown hair. One who knew her had even been heard to say she was "a lot of fun". There was comedy in the spectacle of the law in all its pomposity murmuring about the arcane variations of sexual desire. And there was comedy in the way snooty Winchester con-fronted its accidental notoriety.

But, of course, this was all really about unfunny, dismembered bodies. The comedy and the pomp were just different ways of dealing with this unpalatable absolute. The Wests' fantastic ruthlessness subverted one's sense of what was normal and so the hacks laughed and the lawyers murmured - doing what is normal with abnormal intensity to distance themselves from these extremities.

The contrast was almost too much to bear. Looking at Rosemary, I found it hard to believe in the simple fact of her ap-pearance. It seemed impossible that all she had done was not branded on her exterior. Surely such depravity should leave some clear mark, or failing that, surely by studying this slightly odd respectability I could follow the chain of causality back to the deranged abat-

There was comedy in the bulky figure of Rosemary in her I couldn't, Nobody could. However much we might study her pale-rimmed spectacles or her dangling earrings, we could never honestly say we saw the crimes within. People, all people, have this scary inwardness, this alarming ability to conceal. And that was what it was all about - concealment. The bod-

ies were buried to conceal the sex games that got out of hand. The super-normal facade of Cromwell Street concealed the super-abnormality within. And, when the trial came, the wigs and gowns, Rosemary's clothes and the odd murmured witticism of Mr Justice Mantell concealed the feelings within. Even the judge's warning to the jury that they were not there to pass moral judgments on the Wests' sex gameswas a demand for concealment - a demand that the jury hide themselves from themselves, the better to weigh the facts. Hiding things,

it's the English way. For this was just another English murder story, a story of dark deeds behind bland, respectable exteriors. We knew the script too well. This was a repeat, a sequel – the banality of evil celebrated yet again to satisfy the vengeful delights of the masses who, already, will be thirsty for the next atrocity.

look at contempt laws PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES the media. He will then hold discussions with Michael Howard,

Political Correspondent

The media could face tougher contempt of court laws after an investigation into cheque-book journalism launched by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor. in the wake of the West verdicts.

Lord Mackay, the minister responsible for the contempt laws, is concerned that payments appeared to have been made to witnesses in the trial. raising serious issues of principle that needed to be examined. The move was immediately welcomed by Rosemary West's

defence team and by Douglas French, Tory MP for Gloucester. Lord Mackay has called for reports of the deals made with

the Home Secretary, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney General, and possibly Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, over whether the law needs to be tightened. Brian Leverson QC, the leading prosecution counsel, told Winchester Crown Court yesterday that he had been asked

> tual report. A string of witnesses in the trial admitted having contracts with the media, including Janet Leach, who acted as the "appropriate adult" to sit in on police interviews with Frederick

West, who agreed a deal with Mirror Group Newspapers.



the defendant, he said. Freedom of expression, he

said, did not include the sort of

cross-examination by the defence that she had contacted the Daily Mirror because Fred West had asked her to as he wanted the truth told,

The judge, Mr Justice Man-tell, reminded the jury in his summing-up that she had lied in her evidence-in-chief by failing to tell the court about the

Anne-Marie Davis, Rosemary West's stepdaughter, signed a £3,000 deal with the Daily Star, while Caroline

Owens, who was attacked by the Wests in 1972, stands to gain £20,000 from the Sun. Kathryn Halliday, who said she had a lesbian relationship with Rosemary West, entered into an

Mrs Leach admitted under £8,000 transaction with the Sunday Mirror

Richard Ferguson QC, Rosemary West's defence counsel, challenged the evidence of some of the witnesses, warning the jury that the more sensational their accounts, the more the media

would be likely to pay.

Mr Ferguson added: "You may think that, consciously or unconsciously, they know that what they will be paid is contingent upon there being convictions in this case."

The Press Complaints Commission, the industry's voluntary watchdog, said yesterday that "serious allegations" had been made about the payment of witnesses, and it is to consider the implications next week.

Media activity 'blighted' trial

Rosemary West's solicitor Leo Goatley said Rosemary West's trial had been "blighted" by the activities of certain members of the media. While accepting that a case of this kind would attract extensive attention from the media, this had to be balanced against the interests of

by Sir Nicholas to provide a fac-

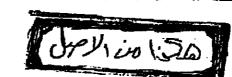
issue of press coverage has become inextricably incorporated in the proceedings and affected the shape and course of the proceedings." He was thinking particularly of early approach-es journalists had made to witnesses. They had been offered money to tell their stories and have them published at a time when the case was sub judice. "The matter has at various

times been considered by the throughout the West case. "The Attorney General as well as ruled upon by the trial judge pri-or to commencement of the tri-

al," he said. It was not a peripheral mat-ter. "The kind of money offered to some witnesses, represents for them the source of their material wellbeing, which they could not have dreamed of. To preserve that opportunity, those witnesses had to tell a certain tale and the jury to believe it."

GRRR AHA MMM'S PORT

Just roll it round your tongue.



I made them, I can do what I like with them?

Bishop's Cleeve does not look like the birthplace of a night-mare. The village just north of Cheltenham in Gloucestershire is more suburban than rural. reassuringly ordinary, a sane, safe part of Middle England. By a dreadful chance Rose-

mary Letts met Frederick West when they both lived there in 1969. It was to be a marriage made in hell, for he was already a murderer and both were the damaged products of dysfunc-tional families.

Both were also eventually capable of evil beyond imagi-nation, inflicting pain and death even on their own children. West once told a friend: "I have made them. I can do what I like with them.

She was 15 when they met, a quiet girl who later emerged as the dominant force in the relationship and as a strong disciplinarian with a ferocious temper. West was 12 years her senior, a boastful buily who was loathed by her parents.

Rosemary Pauline Letts was born on 29 November 1953 in Northam, near Bideford, north Devon. She was the fifth of seven children of Billy Letts, a former sailor who was working as an electrical engineer, and his wife, Daisy. Mr Letts was a moody, authoritarian man who ruled his family by violence.

His four sons and three daughters were not encouraged to have friends and Mr Letts was incapable of showing affection towards them. Rosemary's brother, Graham Letts, later recalled: "Dad was a strange man. He never showed his feelings, never gave you a

It was a behaviour pattern that was to recur in Rosemary's life, the iron will and the loss of temper leading inevitably to the use of violence. Minor offences were punished ferociously, the much greater sins of adults were uncontrolled. But as a child she was quiet, obedient and babyish but was devoted to her two younger brothers, Graham and Gordon.

The family moved to Plymouth and then in 1964 to Gloucestershire. Rosemary, by now 11, went to the local school but left four years later to work in a baker's shop in Cheltenham. The Letts' daughters would never have dared bring a boy home and sex was never discussed, but despite this she

was sexually active very early. She lost her virginity when she was 14 and the police were called in when she began going out with a much older man even before she met West. She also claims that she was raped twice when she was 15.

Fred West, who had already solit from his first wife, Rena, came to live on a caravan site in Bishop's Cleeve with their daughter, Anne Marie, and Charmaine, Rena's daughter by another man. He met Rose-mary in 1969 as they waited at early 1960s. There Rena bore Cheltenham bus station for the service to Bishop's Cleeve.

She helped him look after the children and within weeks they began a sexual relationship which appalled her parents. Graham Letts said: "Fred was told he was not welcome in our house. There were lots of rows and discussions. Dad was so strict. He could not accept what was going on. As far as he was concerned, Fred was too old and Rose was too young. Dad told her, 'If you see him again I will disown you'.'

His daughter challenged his authority and told him that she would continue to see West. Her parents were so worried they contacted social services and had her put into care but he continued to visit her and the order was only effective for three weeks until her 16th birthday.

Her parents were horrified when she became pregnant and wanted her to have an abortion but despite their pleas she moved into West's caravan immediately. Their first child, Heather - who was to become their final murder victim - was born in October 1970 when

Rosemary was 16. West provided her with an escape route from what she regarded as a stiffing existence and her relations with her family grew more remote. Her mother, who lives near Reading, Berkshire, has not been in touch since 1986. Mrs Letts, 77, said: "Maybe it was our fault. I feel in some ways responsible for them getting together. We were so strict with our children. Maybe she ran off with him as a rebellion against her

West was born in the village of Much Marcle on the boundary of Herefordshire and Gloucestershire on 29 September 1941. He was the son of Walter West, a farm labourer, and his wife, Daisy, and he and his two brothers and three sis-



Barry, Anna-Marie, Rosemary Junior, Frederick, Stephen, Heather and Tara.

ters grew up in a tiny tied cottage. Their upbringing seemed llic. His brother Doug said: 'We used to play football and cricket, we went rabbiting and we used to help dad on the farm and on his allotment. Fred was popular. He had not got a care in the world and if he ever had he would never show it."

Ann Colborn, who went to the village school with him. said: "He wasn't bad, he seemed quite a normal little boy. They were a close-knit family but rough. I ney were always raine separate from the rest of the village, they did not mix ...

But there was a darker predatory side to West. He sexually assaulted a girl who rejected his advances at a youth club dance and he got a 13-yearold village giri pregnant, escaping prosecution only when she refused to give evidence. He met his first wife Rena,

who was to become one of his earliest murder victims, in nearby Ledbury and they went back to live in her native Scot-Anne Marie, who West faearly 1970, not long after he moved in with Rosemary.

He also claimed to be an amateur abortionist and when Terence Crick stayed in his caravan at Bishop's Cleeve in the 1970s West showed him a set of crude dirty tools which he said he used for this purpose. It was a foretaste of the butchery to come.

When West met Rosemary he found a willing pupil, who had already shown a strong interest in sex and he could mould to accept his sexual obsessions as

and in some ways to surpass his. had to grow up fast. In early 1971, West served six months in jail for theft leaving Rosemary, only 17, on her own in a small flat at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester to look after the children. Charmaine was seven,

just a few weeks old. The responsibility and the pressure were enormous and she disliked Charmaine, who was as strong-willed as she was, and who disappeared at around

As the years passed, her went to the police who succraving for sex came to equal cessfully prosecuted the Wests It was a mistake the couple After moving in with him she did not repeat. Five of the victims found buried at Cromwell Street are believed to have been picked up either hitch-hiking or as they waited for buses between 1973 and 1975. Carol Cooper and Shirley

Hubbard, both 15 and from bro-Anne Maric, five, and Heather ken homes, disappeared in Worcester; Lucy Partington, 21, a deeply religious student vanished in Cheltenham, and Therese Siegenthaler, also 21, from Switzerland went missing while hitch-hiking across England. Juanita Mott. 18. disappeared while hitch-hiking in

into prostitution.

they owned a Ford Popular.

In 1972, they gave a lift to

hitch-hiker Caroline Owens,

who had worked for them as a

nanny. She was raped and sex-

ually and physically assaulted.

They let her go after she

All were kept alive, bound, masked and gagged, hanging from a beam with holes drilled in it as they were repeatedly sex-ually abused in the cellar at 25 Cromwell Street. It is not known how they were killed. They were buried clockwise in the order in which they died in the cellar, which was now full up. The floor was concreted over and later it became the West children's bedroom. cheerful nursery pictures decorating the wall in the midst of a graveyard. Anne Marie's wed-

ding reception was held there. Two more victims, later found to have been regular visitors to Cromwell Street, suffered the same fate. Lynda Gough, 19, disappeared in 1973 and Alison Chambers, 17, vanished in 1979. Lynda's remains were discovered under what had been a garage and Alison's in the garden and both had been

tied up and abused. All the bodies had been mutilated, kneecaps removed, and many finger and toe bones missing. West, who had once worked in an abattoir, used to boast that he had carried out medical experiments and he probably practised his butcher's skills on these victims.

Rosemary had seven more children, five daughters and two sons, between 1972 and 1983. Although her husband is listed as their father on their birth certificates, three are of mixed race. West is believed to have fathered many children outside the marriage.

Sex dominated the house, which as well as the Wests and their growing brood of children accommodated an ever-changing population of young lodgers attracted by the cheap rents. said that they used to go out in One of her many lovers was their car looking for girls to John Holmes, a market trader,

bring back home to get them who recalled: "She was a prostitute, but she never charged me. In 1972, the Wests moved to She used to give me money. We 25 Cromwell Street and got would go out, have a drink and married. Rosemary was a picgo back to her place and have ture of respectability, neatly sex three or four nights a week. dressed, sometimes in a twin set She would do anything for you and pearls. In the early 1970s

. She was a nymphomaniac." Janet Goodhall, a former lodger, said: "Rose had a lot of boyfriends, she was on the

game ... Fred used to criticise her sometimes for bringing all these men back, but I also heard him say once that she wasn't charging enough."

Thursday was the day reserved for Rosemary's paying customers. She advertised in a contact magazine and had her 'special room' for clients, which was kept locked, with a

Photograph: South West News separate doorbell outside and a red warning light in the sitting

when she was with them. Rosemary was bisexual and was particularly excited by violent lesbian sex and this featured in the Wests' huge collection of pornographic videos, many home-made. Amid this atmosphere of sexual frenzy Rose-

room which was switched on

mary's influence grew ever stronger. West's brother, Doug, said: "In the early days Rose was very quiet. She had Charmaine, Anne Marie and Heather to look after. But she changed and became the type of woman who wanted to know exactly what he was doing and where

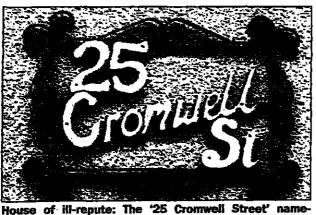
he was going."
Anne Marie, West's daughter by Rena, summed it up: "Initially my stepmother was young and impressionable, but as the years passed she became more and more dominant.

In the moral wilderness of Cromwell Street all the rules which normally govern family life were obscenely reversed. Sexually, anything was allowed, but the children were immaculately turned out and subject to fierce discipline on the pettiest of matters. Linda Tonks, whose daughter went out with the Wests' son, Stephen, remembers that the boy was threatened by West when he walked across a floor in muddy boots.

Rosemary's growing dominance almost certainly cost Shirley Robinson, a lodger at Cromwell Street, her life. Like many of the other victims Shirley, 18, came from a broken home but, unlike them, she was not bound and gagged before she was killed. But she was pregnant by West and openly affectionate towards him and thus a rival to Rosemary who became increasingly jealous of her. The Wests probably killed her to solve this domestic problem and she disappeared in May 1978, her remains being found in the Cromwell Street garden. With her were the remains of her unborn child.

The West children did not escape in this atmosphere of utter depravity. Anne Marie was sexually abused from the age of eight, her father making her pregnant when she was 15.
Their daughter Heather,

whose disappearance, aged 16, in 1987 led to the rumours that she was "under the patio" which eventually sparked off the murder inquiry, was probably killed she would blow the whistle on this abuse. She was the first born and the last, sad victim of the sordid and evil partnership of Frederick and Rosemary West.



plate, which was swiftly removed as a souvenir when the address was catapulted into the headlines

thered, and Charmaine, daughter of an Asian bus driver. It is believed that West may have served his apprenticeship as a murderer in Glasgow although police say that they cannot identify any definite victims. He drove an ice cream van, an ideal magnet for young girls, and his friend John McLachlan had an allotment and recalls that West used to go there late at night. Mr McLachlan was one of a small group who knew West

in this shadowy period of his life. Another was Anne McFall, a friend of Rena's, who became infatuated with him even though it was no secret that he regularly beat up his wife. After he returned to Herefordshire in the mid-1960s Anne came south and by the summer of 1967 she was heavily pregnant by West. Her remains and those of her unborn child were found near Much Marcle.

By this time West was driving around Gloucestershire sexually assaulting girls who were unwise enough to accept the lifts he offered. He probably murdered Mary Bastholm, who disappeared in Gloucester in 1968 and he certainly killed Rena in that time. It is known that Charmaine was alive at the beginning of June 1971 and that West was released from prison on the 24 June. Police believe Rosemary killed her and that he helped her cover up the murder. Her remains were found at Midland Road.

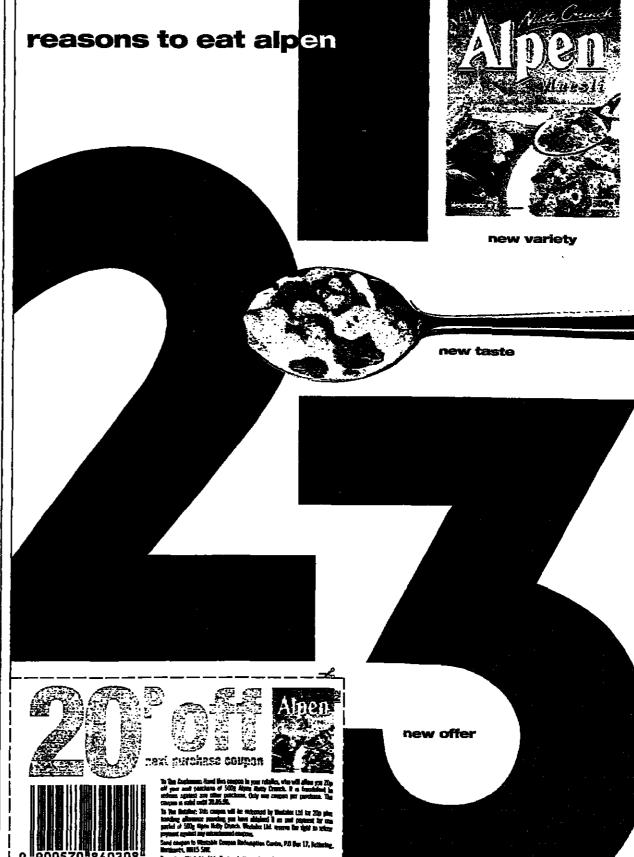
Rosemary's teenage innocence had gone for ever and the couple were bound together by a terrible secret. The sexual depravity into which they increasingly slipped further tightened this bond. Elizabeth Agius, a neigh-

bour at Midland Road, who they unsuccessfully tried to get in-volved in sex games, said: "They had no secrets from each other at all. They knew everything that each other was doing. They got some sort of kick out of it." By the time they moved to Midland Road, Rosemary was

already working as a prostitute

and West liked to watch

through a hole in the wall as she had sex with other men. Another of Mrs Agius's con-versations with the Wests took a more serious turn. Rosemary



CROMWELL STREET MURDERS

Wife could profit from sale of West's estate

The legacy: Rosemary West may benefit from a grim inheritance, but is likely to face claims from relatives of some of the victims

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

It may be cold comfort in prison, but Rosemary West could still benefit financially from the estate of her dead husband, Fred West, who committed suicide on New Year's Day.

In normal circumstances the biggest money-spinner for the victims on the site. Rosemary West would have heen the 132 tapes of his police interviews, his handwritten autobiography, I Was Loved By An Angel, and the profits from the definitive" biography commissioned by the Official Solicitor, Peter Harris.

But Rosemary has made it clear, through her solicitor, Leo Goatley, that she does not wish to profit from the official hiography to be written by Geoffrey Wansell, which will rely heavily on Fred West's memoirs and the police interviews.

Instead, she will divide her share among the couple's eight children, according to preference – and some of them are not in her good books.

It is not clear how much money the hiography will make. The advance made by its publishers. Hodder Headline, is said to be as low as £100,000 and Mr Harris has already Peter Harris: Commissioned

ceeds it realises.

The family home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, is also part of her inheritance but is unlikely to be sold. She reportedly supports a local cam-paign to demolish the house and create a memorial garden for

The Official Solicitor has promised Mr Wansell access to the 132 police tapes, but Rose-mary West is expected to assume the physical ownership of them, as she is entitled to inherit



gal fees administering the estate, which must come out of the proraises the unsavoury possibili-ty that she could sell them to the highest bidder at an auction house such as Sotheby's: there is a lucrative market for such

> The estate also owns the film rights to the Wansell biography, which is due out next year. As the Official Solicitor regards it as his duty to maximise the proceeds of the estate on behalf of West's five surviving children under the age of 18, he will presumably feel obliged to sell them. It is not clear whether Rosemary West would also re-nounce the proceeds from the

sale of rights.

Another factor which could diminish her eventual inheritance is that the relatives of three alleged victims have given notice to the Official Solicitor that they may claim

compensation from the estate. Their move follows an advertisement Mr Harris placed in the Gloucestershire Echo in March asking anyone with a possible claim to contact him.

"Whether these claims, or any other claims on behalf of victims are pursued, will depend upon whether the estate is sufficiently solvent to make it worth pursuing them." a



Cromwell Street: An ordinary street in an ordinary city, except that selling houses now poses a particular problem

Children's secret life

The four youngest children of successfully applied to have the the West family are living un- care order on her lifted a few der new identities in foster months before her mother's homes far removed from inner- trial at Winchester Crown city Gloucester.

The programme for caring for £250,000 a year.

The three girls and a boy – now aged between 12 and 17 – have been given new names to protect them from the publicity surrounding their parents in are unknown, but Fred West famy. They are all with foster was the father of the others in families at unknown locations outside Gloucestershire.

West family, now aged 17, is believed to be living with close relatives in Gloucestershire. She for the West children, mainly in

Court

All the children were placed them is currently costing around in care after allegations were made against their parents in August 1992. The four still in care are expected to remain there until they are 18.

Gloucestershire County Another daughter of the Council's social-services department is footing the annual bill of around £250,000 a year

the costs of fostering and the special back-up services.

The children are also understood to be receiving special counselling which is likely to continue for some considerable time - for some, possibly all their lives.

A High Court Family Division order prevents the media from publishing details of the children's new homes or making any approaches about their

In making a previous order Mr Justice Thorpe said that he regarded two of the children as "extremely vulnerable" - they had been affected by the case and its publicity, he said.

Life in the shadow of death and depravity

JOHN McKJE

Life goes on in Cronwell Street. Number 25 is boarded up and has become something of an attraction for visitors to the cathedral city.

Neighbours try to go about their daily business, having en-dured 18 months of visits from sightseers, police, journalists and TV crews since the grisly finds at the Wests' home. But the discovery that the

Wests had been murdering and hiding the bodies since 1972 is still taking its toll. House prices

have slumped dramatically. Ernest and Olive Miles have lived there for 48 years. Ernest said of the Wests: "They kept themselves to themselves," he recalls, "and we used to see them going to school every day.

of the newspapers. It has made it quite difficult to move because nobody can sell their house." There was relief, if not much surprise, that Rose West was found guilty of 10 murders.

57-year-old Dave Limbrick,

All we know is what came out

How could two people live together for so long and one not

know what was going on?
"It's probably better for her that she was found guilty. she'd have to have watched her step in Gloucester if she'd been let off. But then, I think people in prisons have an easy life too.

Ernest Miles added: "It's obvious she had been told by her husband and lawyers not to say anything. It's obvious she knew about the murders."

who lives at number 31, said: in the street for 44 years, and asked not to be named, was more magnanimous. "I hope she lives to 100 - and gets to eat porridge every day."

"Fred was most polite and I must admit I thought they were an ideal family - but then no-body had much to do with them. In the last 40 years this street has changed from being a nice residential area to being a bed and breakfast area. This street is not close-knit."

Dave Limbrick endorsed the One neighbour, who has lived view of Fred West as a happy-

go-lucky neighbour. " He was always grinning, always had a smile on his face about something. I just thought he was a bit thick."

Most residents seemed to be as shocked by the killings as anybody else. They remain bewildered by the depravity

revealed. The house has become a shrine for those fixated with serial killers, and a souvenir hunter has recently stole the '25 Cromwell Street' number plate from outside.

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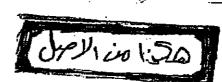
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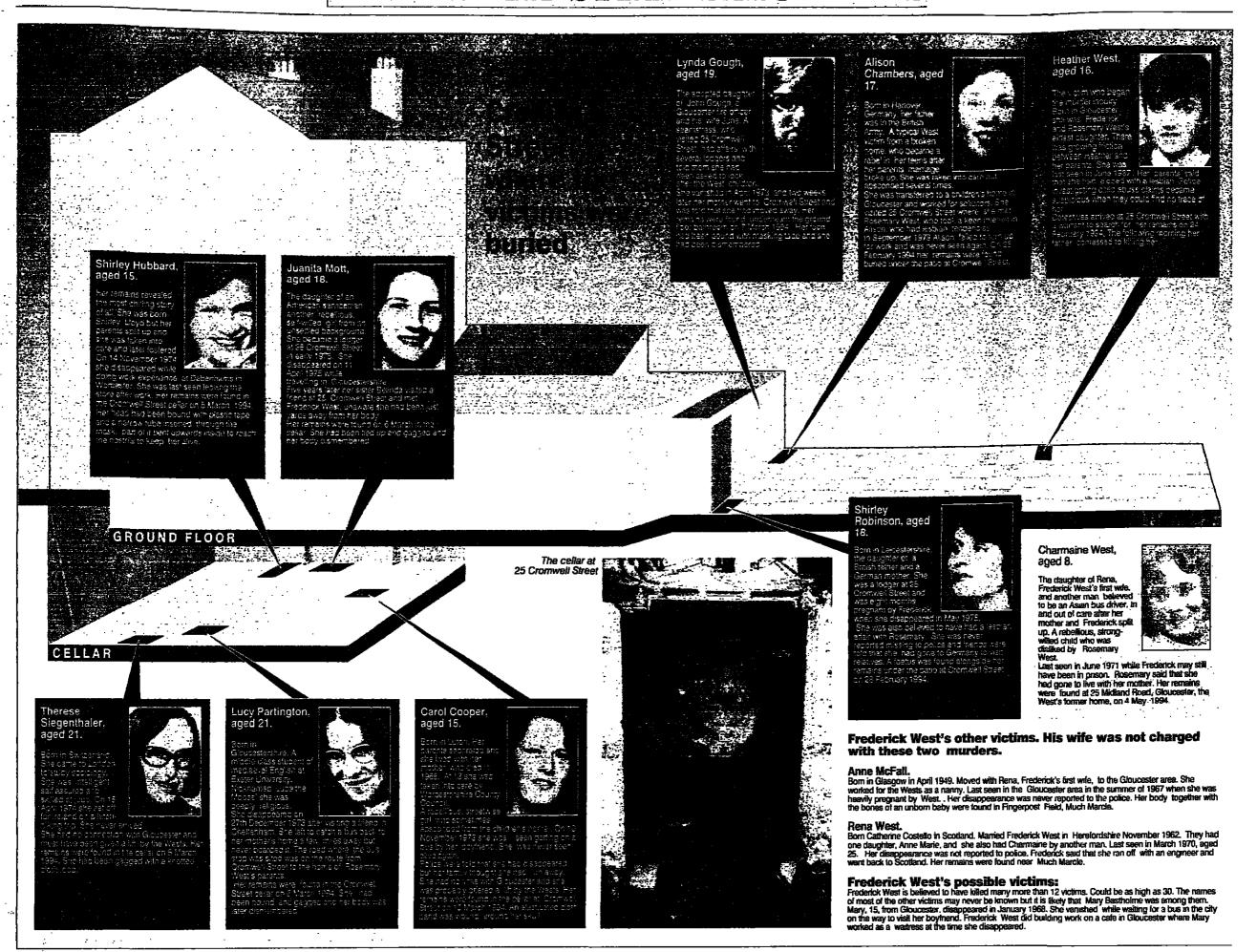
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CROMWELL STREET MURDERS



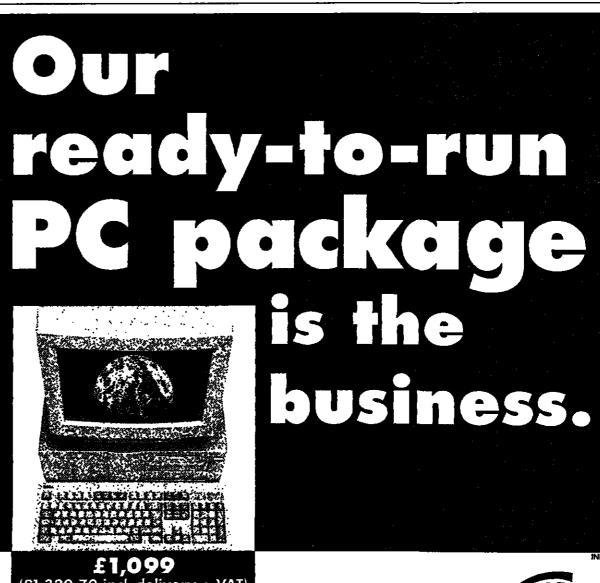


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CROMWELL STREET MURDERS

From the age of innocence to days of horror: Images of a couple who turned to life of evil









From left to right: Rosemary West, aged six; Frederick West, aged 10; West with his brothers and sisters on a motorbike; and the Wests together in 1984 Families relive anger and grief Haunted eyes of those who lived

WILL BENNETT and PETER VICTOR

For Joan Owen the Cromwell Street murder investigation and the subsequent trial of Rosemary West was the second ordeal she had to endure. Like all the relatives of the

victims she spent years won-dering what had happened to her daughter, Alison Chambers, always hoping that one day she might get a visit or a telephone call to say she was well. But the fate that met Alison,

tied up, gagged and sexually abused before being killed was beyond her imagination. Mrs

Owen, 52, from Swansea, South Wales, has given up her cleaning job as a result of the depression she has suffered since

learning the truth. She said: "When I think about it it hurts very much. It hurts me to know that she might have been hurt, that she might have called out for me."

Mrs Owen always worried that her headstrong, rebellious daughter would get into trou-ble. "She would not listen to anything I said," she said.

After she was put into care Alison ran away several times and Mrs Owen warned that if she did so again she could not

expect to come home. In 1979

she vanished aged 17.
Mrs Owen said: "Over all those years that we never heard from her I thought that [it] was because of what I had said. "

"Every Christmas we hoped that we would either have a phone call or that she would turn up on the door."

Last year Mrs Owen received a call from the Missing Persons Bureau saying that Alison could be one of the victims whose remains were found at Cromwell Street. She gave a DNA test and later the police returned and said that it had been confirmed. She said: "My family kept me

their daughter. a new granddaughter by my youngest daughter. I kept working. I tried to fill my time as much as I could so I didn't have

time to think about it. "I was very angry because I would like Alison to have seen how much I have changed and I would have liked to have seen how much she had changed."

For the parents of Lynda Gough yesterday's guilty verdict was the "last hurdle in their grief". Lynda, 19, vanished in April, 1973, just weeks before her 20th birthday. She wrote a note to her parents saying she had found a flat in Gloucester.

John and June Gough, in a statement issued through their family doctor, said; "We feel in our anger and our sadness that Lynda has been publicly murdered again and we have been bereaved again at every turn of events since she disappeared 22

"Now we hope that with the trial ended we have taken the last hurdle in our grief. "We do not wish to be inter-

viewed or photographed. There is no healing or gain for us in any publicity.
"We wish only, yet again, to

going through that time. I had It was the last they heard from rebuild our torn-up lives and to remember the happiness that we had with Lynda.

Their GP, Dr Anthony Lynch, of Highnam, Gloucester, said: "The Goughs will greet the verdict with relief, but their main relief is that the trial is

"The guilty verdict means that it's final. Had there been any other verdict there would have been loose ends. It's complete, it's finished, it's over."

But with a siew of books, films, television documentaries and dramas expected, it seems unlikely that the story of 25 Cromwell Street has ended.

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to tell their tale

WILL BENNETT

Anne Marie Davis looks haunted with the anxious face of an animal which has been kicked repeatedly. Like all survivors of her experience and was still rethe Wests' brutality, the night-mares will always be with her. The daughter of Fred West and Rena his murdered first ceiving counselling. Now 39, she

wife lives in a semi-detached house on a Gloucester council estate with her children, Michelle, 11, and Carole, eight. She is divorced from their father. She showers them with affection, compensating for her own brutal upbringing. A friend said: "It's the kids that keep her going. She is like a lioness with

her cubs and is very protective." Anne Marie, 31, never had a childhood. Her father had sexual intercourse with her regularlyfrom the age of nine and made her pregnant when she was 15. She was made to have sex with her mother's lovers from the age of 11. She never revealed what was going on, venting her feelings by becom-ing a bully at school. In the year before she left school, she was absent 60 times but no checks

She left home at 15 and for time kept a roof over her head by sleeping with men in return for accommodation. Later she became pregnant by her boyfriend. Chris Davis, and in 1984 they married. By then she was seeing her father and stepmother again.

Despite everything she loved her father and visited him in A, now 33. She was also the prison. When he committed product of a broken home who suicide in prisonshe learned about it from a relative, took a drugs overdose and was rushed to hospital. She was taken to hospital again in between her first and second days in the witness box at Winchester Crown Court.

With a day off because the jury was visiting Cromwell Street, she drank too much alcohol which reacted with antidepressants she is on all the time. The friend said: "If you were a child in Cromwell Street you were not inquisitive. The hallucinated that Fred West reason why Anne Marie is alive was following her.

is that she kept her head down and avoided eye contact. Caroline Owens, who in 1972 was sexually assaulted by the Wests who were later fined for the attack, is still traumatised by

is a divorced mother of three and lives near Gloucester. She was a typical West victim, her parents splitting up when she was four and her mother later marrying another man with whom Caroline had a difficult

relationship. She was living at home in Gloucestershire when the Wests picked her up and offered her a job as their nanny. She left but when she was hitch-hiking on another occasion they again picked her up.

She was sexually assaulted by both Wests and raped by West but decided against pressing the latter charge. Later she suffered from depression and low self es-teem and in 1976 took an overdose of tranquillisers.

She told police: "I have been very sensitive to people being close to me and cuddling me since being abducted by Fred and Rose. In particular I am wary of other adult females. even friends. I have a terrible

feeling of worthlessness."

She feels guilty, believing that if she had pressed charges against West and he had been convicted the murders could have been prevented.

A third survivor is a woman referred to in court only as Miss product of a broken home who was taken into care aged 13 and sent to Jordansbrook Children's Home, Gloucester. She got to know the Wests and in 1977 was raped and sexually assaulted when she visited Cromwell Street. She said later: "They abused my trust. They offered me the love and comfort of a family when I was in care and

they used me. She married a violent alcoholic who abused her, has twice attempted suicide and has psychiatric problems. She has even



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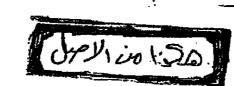
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Royal revelations: Duty calls the Prince and Princess of Wales to joint visit to Argentina

Heir feigns apparent bout of madness

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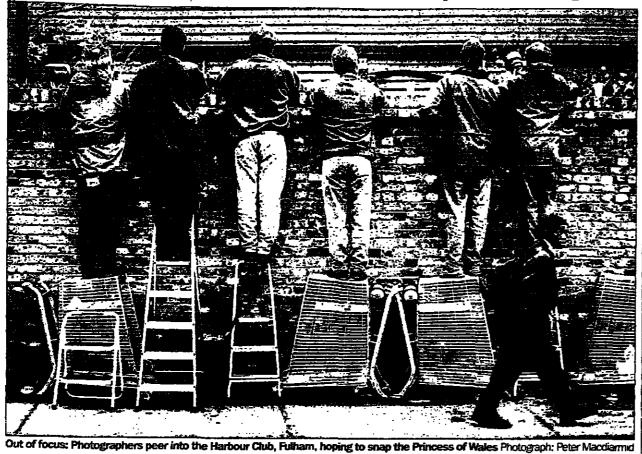
It can't be easy being heir to the throne when your wife has admitted adultery, when you can't remember where you are, or what day it is, and when your subjects have begun to jeer you in the street.

That, coupled with a case of self-confessed "advanced de-crepitude" and a hairstyle grow-ing more like Bobby Charlton's each day, would be enough to induce in most people - the kind of madness associated with a more senior royal called George.

But yesterday, while the world continued to talk about that interview, the Prince of Wales got on with what he does best: jollying businessmen into batting for Britain while cleaning up the environment.

The ink had no sooner dried on the New York Daily News's headline: Yes, I Cheated on Chuck , than Chuck himself was arriving at the Royal Society of Arts in London to make the fifth Norsk Hydro Awards for innovations in the water industry.

He wore a sharp blue doublebreasted suit and looked tanned, if a little tired, beneath



frescres by James Barry entitled The Progress of Human Knowledge. His own knowledge was, he said, a bit dodgy on a dayto-day basis because of his age - or was it because of the pres-

"My only problem as I get older," he told his audience, "is that I think I must be suffering from a certain amount of advanced decrepitude and, combined with the fact that I receive a certain number of invitations.

I have less time to remember what I am doing today and what event I am at and whether I have the right speech notes.

"As you may have gathered. I am not entirely convinced I have the right speech notes." To mars of laughter, he added, possibly as a dig at the assembled media: "This is a shame, because I'm constantly intrigued

by what I have to say myself." As it transpired, the Prince did have the right notes and he sped through the engagement with practised case emerging 90 minutes later to be greeted by a warm crowd. On Tuesday night, he was jeered by a small section of the crowd outside the première of the new James Bond film, Goldenbye.

The Princess of Wales, mean-time, departed for Argentina last night in the sort of "ambassadorial" role that she told the BBC's Martin Bashir she sees for herself in the future.

During the tour-day visit she will attend a number of charitable fund-raising events and will meet President Carlos Menem, a man who, it will not have escaped Buckingham Palace's notice, is famous for admitting to being a serial seduc-

er of beautiful women. Female journalists warned the Princess to "watch out for the old hand on the knee" from a man with a lifelong reputation as a mujenego (womaniser).

MoD under fire for spending on luxury offices

CHRIS BLACKHURST

The Ministry of Defence was lambasted by an influential committee of MPs yesterday for allowing delays - costing the taxpayer up to £2m a week - to

a prestige building project. Labour was quick to link the criticism from the Commons Public Accounts Committee. to the departure of the MoD's head of defence procurement. Dr Malcom McIntosh, His job, paying between £90,000 and £125,000 a year, was advertised at the weekend.

MoD officials strenuously denied Dr McIntosh's leaving had anything to do with the committee report, which followed an earlier study from the National Audit Office, the publie finance watchdog, and was the latest in a series of attacks by the committee and the NAO on overspending and delays to defence contracts.

In yesterday's report, the focus was on Abbey Wood, the new £248m headquarters for Dr McIntosh's procurement executive, at Bristol. The committee said it was "concerned that the Abbey Wood project is signifi-cantly behind schedule." Each week of delay is estimated to

cost the taxpayer £2m.
The sheer scale of Abbey Wood has raised eyebrows at Westminster, not least because it is intended as the base for the civil servants charged with obtaining the best deal for the taxpayer on defence orders.

Extending to 98 acres, the complex, which is to house 5,700 procurement officials.

embraces an ornamental lake, 5,000 trees, 28,000 shrubs, 230 bathrooms, 26 lifts; a specially constructed railway station, a 100-pupil nursery, an Italian suspension bridge and covered

walkways. Critics point out that while the design can be justified be-cause the project is intended to save £100m a year by bringing together civil servants from all over Britain on one site, none of the luxury was necessary. Even more money could have been saved, they maintain, if the project had not been so

extravagant.
The PAC said it was "most unsatisfactory that some of the Department's investment appraisals had weaknesses which might have made a material dif-

ference to the results" MPs were particularly con-

said they could have submitted lower bids if the MoD had allowed them more time. That, plus the fact that "in [the contractors'] view, the department were unwilling to consider al-ternative solutions ... may mean that the Department have not achieved the best value for

Dr McIntosh has been chief of defence procurement since 1991. Before joining the MoD he was Secretary of Australia's Department of Industry, Tech-

nology and Commerce. Appointed on a five-year contract, much of his time has been spent answering criticism of expenditure on major defence projects. These gramme and the new nuclear submarine dry dock and missile

facility at Faslane on the Clyde. He is understood to be returning to Australia to become chairman of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

An MoD spokesman denied that Dr McIntosh's departure had anything to do with overspending: "He has been here for five years and is moving on to

Blair rounds on Brown's critics

DONALD MACINTYRE and STEPHEN GOODWIN

Tony Blair last night vigorously defended Gordon Brown against his Labour critics with a ringing declaration to the Shadow Cabinet that he was "101 per cent" behind his shadow Chancellor and the strategy he had unveiled on the eve

of Tuesday's Budget. Mr Blair moved decisively to quell rumblings within senior party ranks against Mr Brown since a row within the Shadow Cabinet last week over Mr Brown's plans to dock 40 per cent of state benefit from young people refusing a job or train- ment's long-term target of a an overtime ban from next ing place under Labour's standard income tax rate of 20p planned crash programme to re-

duce unemployment. Foreign Secretary, reportedly questioned Mr Brown's plans were leaked in what some senior party figures see as a deliberate attempt to undermine Mr Brown's position.

Mr Blair went out of his way Parliamentary Labour Party.

at last night's Shadow Cabinet meeting to congratulate Mr Brown's "brilliant" and "extremely imaginative" pre-Budget commitment to a long-term target of reducing the starting rate of income tax to 10p in the pound. The Lahour leader said that the Tories were clearly worried about the Opposition's positioning in advance of the Budget and warning shadow ministers that he would not tolerate efforts to undermine

Mr Brown, he added: "People

had better understand that." Mr Blair's move came as Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, reaffirmed the Governin the pound. A series of senior Shadow Cabinet members, in-Details of the conflict - in cluding Mr Cook, are to make which Robin Cook, the shadow a series of speeches over the next few days backing Mr Brown by taking up the themes of his pre-Budget statements of policy. Mr Blair vesterday referred to support for Mr Brown at vesterday's meeting of the

IN BRIEF Mayhew attacks **IRA** over arms

The IRA was attacked last night by Patrick Mayhew, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, for failing to give up arms, and causing the stalemate over the peace process.

His attack came as John Major and John Bruton, the Taoiseach, tried to rescue hopes of a summit tomorrow, to announce their plans for bringing Sinn Fein to negotiations. David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, warned his plans for an elected assembly in Ulster could be the only way out of the stalemate.

Car workers' action

Leaders of 10,000 Vauxhall workers yesterday gave seven days' notice of industrial action at Ellesmere Port and Luton -Wednesday and a reduction in the working week - in protest at a 3.5 per cent pay offer.

Wife rape

The European Court of Human Rights has upheld the offence of rape within marriage, rejecting claims by two British men that it was not possible under 250 year-old common law - for a man to rape his wife.

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The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classis. "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will autuse and warm the cockles of tirel hearts." Colemen is a very furny writer, "said This England." It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Semunal reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whirmsical piece about the peregruations of a village cricket learn on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and remnuscences and a travelogue of some of the most picture-que spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

Anyone who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubbouse and all. There's one wag to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's nover played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor mode for Vernon Coleman's light and amessing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Ingely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chromele. "The max of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of afterdays. For a cat lover: Feline fans will love Alice's Diary which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cal. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cal. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. namour and insigns, what it is really like to be a car. Our lines are bursting with letters from realiers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warm you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cal and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and

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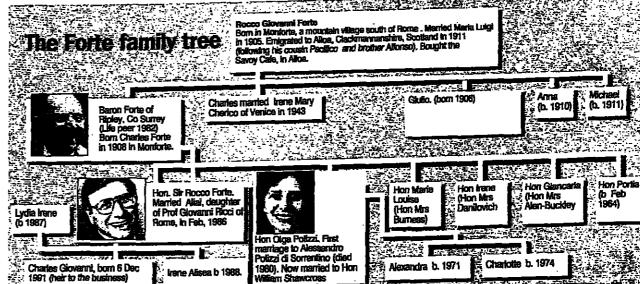
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news

Forte takeover: Behind Granada's £3.4bn bid for a hotel group bathed in success lies a family's rise from humble origins

Dynasty that climbed mountains to claim the Savoy





YICKY WARD

If Granada's bid to take over the Forte group succeeds, it will mark the beginning of the end of one of Britain's richest and fastest-growing business dy-

The Fortes' rise began in 1911 when Lord Forte's father, Rocco, left a life of agricultural labour in Monforte, a hamlet in the Italian mountains, to emigrate to Scotland. He entered the restaurant trade, albeit in a humble way, running

the Savoy Cafe in Alloa, in what was then Clackmannanshire. Though the cafe did not bear much resemblance to its London namesake (it had a reputation for good ice-cream) he had made a gigantic leap. Rocco's ambition was multi-

plied 10 times over in his eldest son, Charles. Even as a teenager he worked out that if you knew the figures that equated to a profit/cost ratio in one care, there was no reason why other cafes could not be run according to the same rules.

When Charles hit his twenties expansion became the family motto. Milk bars were his area - "I did not even know what a milk bar was," he says in his autobiography, but he read about them, visited one in London and bought a chain. "He had," says one acquaintance, "a shrewd eye for undervalued

property - that was really what made him so successful." In 1938 Rocco retired and the Fortes moved south. Charles's appetite increased. He moved

from milk bars into hotels most famously buying the Trust House empire.
The basis for Forte's success

was his skill with figures. He knew the sums that would reap financial reward. However, those same sums cost him quality. The Trust House hotels were criticised for going "down market" and the standard of food and drink in Trust House Forte establishments was legendarily bad. But they made

By the Eighties Charles had a helper at hand. His son Rocco, knighted last year, who had an Oxford degree and had been born with something of a silver spoon in his mouth, nominally took over as Forte chief executive in 1982. (His father did not relinquish real control for several years, causing Sir Rocco to

have a downtrodden image which proved difficult to lose). Now, though, it is universally accepted that he is a great success in his own right. "Rocco does not have the same fire in his belly as his father," says Christina Odone, editor of the Catholic Herald (of which the Fortes own 20 per cent). "But

that is not to say he is not am-

And he is utterly charming. A surface of charm, if you like coats his steely core.

Sir Rocco's quieter nature was arguably what procured the prize that his father had sought for so many years. In 1985 he agreed to something his father would never have contemplated: to own 68 per cent of non-voting shares in the Savoy. This meant he was not the hotel's owner but merely a rank and file director.

The tactic, however, paid off. In 1994, when the Savoy management was deemed simply too "laid-back", the Fortes took over.

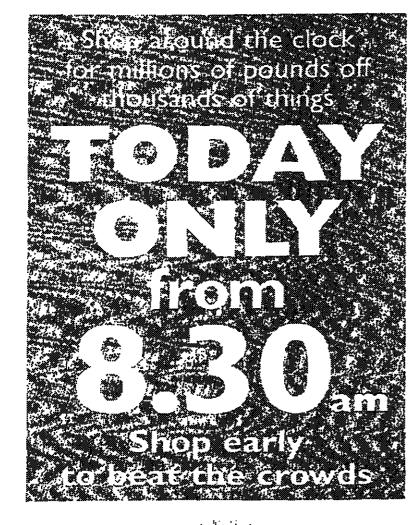
Sir Rocco, who has an heir of his own, Charles, four, is not the only member of the Forte children to have helped Lord Forte. Rocco's sister, Olga Polizzi, is often quoted as being Britain's highest-paid businesswoman She reputedly earns over £2.2m a year as the person in charge the chain's interior decor. She also famously responsible for Norman Lamont's black eye (she was saying good night

legedly got jealous). Ms Polizzi's eldest daughter. Alexandra, 25, has been working in a hotel in Hong Kong. So the dynasty continues to expand. Or does it?

to him, when her then beau al-

Granada's bid is not the only thing halting the family's obsession with the hotel business. Ms Polizzi said recently of her daughter's-plans: "Alex would make such a good barrister. I really do not want her to go straight into the family busine I would prefer Alex to do something on her own. Rocco understands this."

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"He is always incredibly well- not agree. Leisure giants' influence felt across nation

JOHN SHEPHERD

The names of Forte and Granada are stamped indelibly on the social fabric of Britain. They cater for both rich and the poor, offering Little Chef restaurants, motorway service stations, Travelodges, the Grosvenor House Hotel in London - and Coronation Street.

Granada and Forte are giants in the £100bn-a-year United Kingdom leisure industry. Their social influence dates back decades, and their corporate structures owe much to numerous aggressive and friendly takeover deals over the years. Granada started life as a private theatre company in 1934; Forte was incorporated in 1903 as the Hertfordshire Public House

In terms of management style and culture, however, the two could not be further apart. Sir Rocco Forte, chairman, was born into hydrogen and his factors. into business, and his family headed by Lord Forte, the company's octogenarian president -exerts great control over the company. In contrast, Gerry Robinson, Grenada's chief executive and chairman designate, was

the son of a Donegal carpenter and the 9th of 10 children. Both, however, have had to adapt fast to the recent changes in the leisure industry. In Forte's case the recession has been the catalyst, and in Granada's it has been the competitive march of satellite and cable television.

Almost every hotel operator.
Forte included, was caught cold by the recession, and they are still only recovering slowly from relying on an antiquated approach of charging high prices for each customer, instead of per room as in the United States. The legacy of that strategy is that a large part of the industry is be-

ing run by receivers.

Forte is beginning to benefit from the marketing changes, but its financial position still shows scars from the recession, Shareholders started to pay for the

climb out of recession when the dividend was first left un-

changed in 1992, then cut by almost a quarter a year later. Forte has also thrust itself down the path of hotel management rather than owning great lumps of prime real estate, which are costly to maintain. Managing hotels on a fee basis, or franchises, is the path the big

hotels groups are taking.

Hotels are at the forefront of mass market end of the leisure industry, which thrives on high customer turnover coupled with the ability to extract as much money as possible from customers once they are on site by encouraging them to use hotel bars, restaurants, accompanying golf courses and fitness centres. Recession also hurt the tele-

vision industry, where the cash well, used to being topped up by big spending-advertisers, dried up, heavy cost-cutting was largely achieved through a rapid series of take-overs - including Granada swallowing London Weekend Television. Granada now produces some of the biggest television hits in-

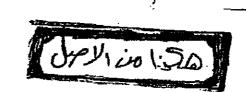
Prime Suspect, from a much low-er cost base than before Mr Robinson took the helm in the early Nineties. One of the most striking contrasts between the two management styles is how they have

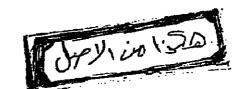
cluding the award-winning Cracker, Coronation Street and

adapted to the changing habits of the motoring consumer. Granada, analysts argue, has the edge over Forte in motorway service stations by being quicker to ditch the one-stop greasy spoon image in favour of more comfortable, friendly sites offering customers a choice of decor and food.

Forte, meanwhile, is having to rethink how it markets Little Chef and Happy Eater, the market-leading roadside restau-rant chains in the face of increasing competition from the big pub groups, such as Bass and Whitbread.

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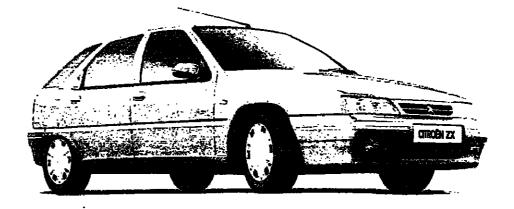
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It's awful. It's like the Black Death has struck'

Meningitis outbreak: Confusion and distress in Lincoln as health authority hands out antibiotics to pupils

REBECCA FOWLER

The football fields were empty and the netball courts were shut up at the City School in Lincoln yesterday, as pupils arrived to pick up emergency antibiotics to protect them against the outbreak of meningitis that has killed five people in the county in less than two months.

Two of the victims were pupils from the school and a third, Caroline East, 14, was still critically ill last night in Lincoln County Hospital, after being admitted with meningitis on Monday.

An atmosphere of confusion and distress hung over the school, which will remain closed until at least Friday. Local health authority officials were overseeing the handing out of the antibiotics in the main hall, after reversing late on Tuesday night an earlier decision only to administer the drugs to 15- and 16-year-olds and offering them instead to all pupils.

Many of the parents were worried not only about their children at the school, but also that their younger children may be at risk from siblings. Among them was Susan York, whose daughter Leanne, 13, is at the

City School.
"We were phoned up at 10 o'clock this morning and asked to come up to the school for antibiotics, and there's a lot of confusion over what's happening." Mrs York said.

Leanne is certainly not com-

thing is completely okay. She's got an eight-year-old brother, and a lot of us are concerned it irresponsible."

could spread to other schools, "It's a real shock ... You nevthat more wasn't done sooner."

The first meningitis victim at the school was Kelly Roberts. 15, who died at the end of October. The second, Sam Binns, 15, died last weekend.

As pupils cycled aimlessly around the entrance to the school yesterday, they expressed their shock at the deaths of their classmates. "It's awful, it's like the Black Death has struck," Amber Smith, 12, said.

"Everyone has been in tears over it, and I couldn't believe it when we were told about Caroline at registration yesterday. She's so tall and strong-looking, and she's always really cheerful."

All City School trips have been cancelled, including an ice skating outing to Doneaster this weekend, and football and netball matches with other schools have been postponed. The local health authority

was offering reassurance yes-terday over its decision to extend the prescribing of antibiotics. Dr Michael Le Geyt, a con-

sultant in incommunicable disease control for Lincolnshire Health Authority, who is heading the investigation into the outhreak said: "We decided not to give them earlier, because "Leanne is certainly not com-ing back until we're sure every-not feel there was a need to.

ple who do not need it could be irresponsible."

The seventh victim of the meningitis outbreak, a 40-yearer think it's going to be on your old Lincoln man, was also still doorstep. A lot of us feel let down critically ill in the Queen's Medical Centre in Lincoln last night. In September cases of the disease in the county were reported to have risen by 38 per cent in a year.

The results of swab tests taken from 15- and 16-year-olds at the City School will come through on Friday. They will identify whether the outbreak strain of meningitis is present in the group.

Barbara Peck, headteacher of the City School, was trying to offer comfort to parents yesterday. "We've closed the school because we thought parents would be more comfortable if their children weren't there," she said. "I'm told it's just a statistical coincidence, but to have this many cases makes it hard



Genes reveal Adam came out of Africa

TOM WILKIE Science Editor

Adam was black and lived in Africa 50,000 to 100,000 years ago, according to scientists who have detected traces of his genes in the DNA of modern men.

Taken together with earlier results on the evolution of women, the studies carried out by geneticists in the United States and at Cambridge University indicate that the whole of humanity may be descended from a small tribe of about chromosome. Assuming that 10,000 people, some of whom migrated out of Africa within they both mutated at the same rate, and knowing from archae-

the past 100,000 years or so. Humans split off from their common ancestor with the chimpanzees and gorillas much earlier - between 4 million and 6 million years ago. But although these archaic forms of early humans were the first to spread out of Africa and populate much of left no descendants.

anatomically modern humans evolved in Africa, splitting off from the archaic line. The descendants of this group, some of African origin, Mr Whitfield whom started migrating out of said, he warned that "we can't Africa one hundred millennia ago, have inherited the earth.

Men inherit from their fathers a special strip of DNA, known as the Y-chromosome. Several years ago, Peter Goodfellow, professor of genetics at Cambridge University, found simonious hypothesis".

the genetic "switch" on the Ychromosome which makes embryos develop into males rather than females. His research student, Simon Whitfield, realised that because the Y-chromosome's genes are not shuffled as happens to other chromosomes, it would carry information about the lineages of humanity.

Mr Whitfield compared the rate at which Y-chromosomes from different human populations acquired mutations with the mutations in a chimpanzee's Yological evidence how long ago chimps and humans diverged, this set the molecular "clock" by which he judged how quickly the modern populations of humans have diverged.

He found less divergence between males than other researchers had found in earlier studies of the DNA passed down solely through the maternal line. Instead, a small group of He cannot explain the difference in population structure.

Although most molecular data tends to point towards an be too confident about the dates for the last common ancestor". It may be impossible to disprove the competing idea that modern humans evolved at the same time from the archaic populations, but "out of Africa is the most par-

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PHILIPS

Party politics turns Britain into an 'apathetic' nation

DONALD MACINTYRE

Britons are now deeply apathetic about party politics, strongly punitive towards criminals, and surprisingly in favour of imposing higher taxes on the rich, according the annual survey of British Social Attitudes.

Startling figures in the survey suggest that public cynicism about the political system has plumbed new depths, with fewer than one in four voters believing that British governments of any party put the national interest above that of the party.

The lack of interest is even more dramatic among teenagers - included in a special sample of the survey for the first time. Only one in eight 12to 19-year-olds expresses a strong interest in politics, compared with one in three of those aged 25 or over.

And although nine in ten teenagers, despite growing up during the Thatcher years, know that John Major is not the first male Prime Minister, and eight in ten know the Tories won the last election, the 12- to 19year-olds are much less knowledgeable about more complex

The public's apathy is also marked when it comes to local politics. In 1965, three-quarters of the public believed that voting in local elections mattered, compared to just over half who now believe it. Interestingly, in view of what many commentators believe is a decline in the powers of local government, more than twice as many people (39 per cent) favour less central control of local government compared with 16 per cent who

want more central control. Only one in three people believes councillors can be trusted to place the needs of their area above those of their own political party. But in this respect local councillors do better than MPs - trusted by only 25 per cent of the electorate to put the national interest first.

The survey, produced by Social and Community Planning Research, suggests that the "British public has become more punitive and less liber-tarian over the last decade in its attitude towards crime and pun-Fewer than three in five peo-

ple (58 per cent compared with 67 per cent 10 years ago) now subjects. For example, only four support the classic view of the pro-European in outlook.

in ten know that there are more than 100 MPs.

British legal system "that it is better to let a guilty person go free than to convict an innocent person". About the same majority is still solidly in favour of the reintroduction of capital punishment for all murders.

While a majority of people (58 per cent) favour higher spending on social welfare, most are also well aware that this would mean higher taxes. But there has been a sharp increase in the proportion of people who believe that the bur-den of higher taxes should fall especially on the better off. Fifty-six per cent of people now take that view, compared with only 32 per cent a decade ago, and this includes 51 per cent of those in the top third of the income scale.

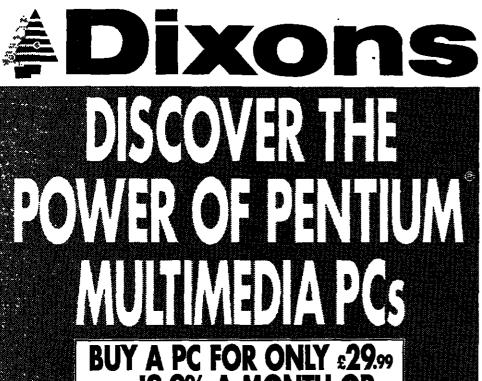
rope show deep divisions on whether there should be further integration, although 77 per cent of the populations do not believe there is now any question of leaving the European Union. The number thinking that the United Kingdom should withdraw has dropped from 42 per cent to 17 per cent in the past 10 years. The survey also suggests that younger and better educated voters are more

Figures on attitudes to Eu-



Seeking a retirement home: An elderly tube train on show yesterday at Moorgate station in the City of London. It is to be the star lot at Brooks' auction on 5 December of redundant London Underground signs, clocks, litter blns and other memorabilia Photograph: Edward Webb

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Bogus claim probe led to family ordeal

IAN MacKINNON

tigate hogus damages claims against a local authority and its insurers were being reviewed yesterday after private detectives spent a month trailing a family before discovering they were watching the wrong peo-

family were so alarmed by the attentions of the team that she a police escort in the mistaken

Procedures employed to inves-

Sharon Wood, 25, and her belief that she might be the sub-

They photographed and it could not happen again.

ject of a kidnap attempt. Once the error was discovered Cleveland County Council apologised unreservedly to the Hartlepool family and the insurers. Zurich Municipal, which had contracted the investigators to examine a claim said it would review its contract with the firm.

However, despite the ordeal both the authority and the insurers said they would continue to use private detectives to examine claims, which now total hundreds of thousands each year and have grown eightfold in 10 years.

The two-man detective team, investigating a claim against the council by a woman who had lived at the Woods' house previously and had fallen in the street injuring herself, took it in turns to follow Mrs Wood as she accompanied her children,

filmed her movements on video until finally Mrs Wood contacted the police and was given protection by plain clothes

Extra playground security was laid on by teachers at her children's school because of fears that the children might be abducted, before the blunder vas discovered.

The anxiety Mrs Wood and her family experienced was heightened because some years before she had been hara by someone who plagued her with phone calls and watched her every move.

She was angry at her latest ordeal. They put me through hell. I didn't know what was going on. Every time the doorbell or the telephone rang I started shak-ing like a leaf. They used to drive along in their car at walking pace just a few feet behind us. I wanted to get the registration number but I was too afraid to look. It was like a repeat of that nightmare.

Officials at Cleveland council were embarrassed by the fiasco which began in 1991. Bruce Stevenson, the authority's chief executive, said: This was a case of mistaken identity which should not have happened. We sincerely regret any distress which has been caused to the lady, who found herself unwit-

tingly involved." Nigel Peake, of Zurich Municipal, echoed the sentiments Craig, six, and Rebecca, two, to and said that the circumstances would be investigated to ensure

MP sues over 'gay' report

The Tory MP David Ashby sued for libel yesterday over a newspaper report which he says claimed he was a homosexual, liar and hypocrite. Mr Ashby, a 55-year-old bar-

rister and MP for North West Leicestershire since 1983, is claiming damages over an article in the Sunday Times in Jan-uary 1994 headed "Ashby shares

uary 1994 headed 'Ashby snares a double bed on Goa trip".

His counsel, Geoffrey Shaw QC, told a High Court jury that the story said Mr Ashby and the unnamed man spent the night of 6 November 1993 in a hotel in Goa known as a love-nest. Mr Shaw said it was true that Mr Ashby was at the hotel, but checked out to move some-where more comfortable. That was the end of the truth in the article. Mr Ashby did not share the room – he was alone. And the hotel was a "perfectly ordi-nary cheap and cheerful" one.

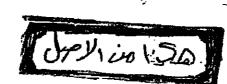
The story also said Mr Ash-by had denied an affair with a male triend after they slept together in a "queen-sized" double bed in France early in 1994. Mr Ashby said they shared the room to save money.

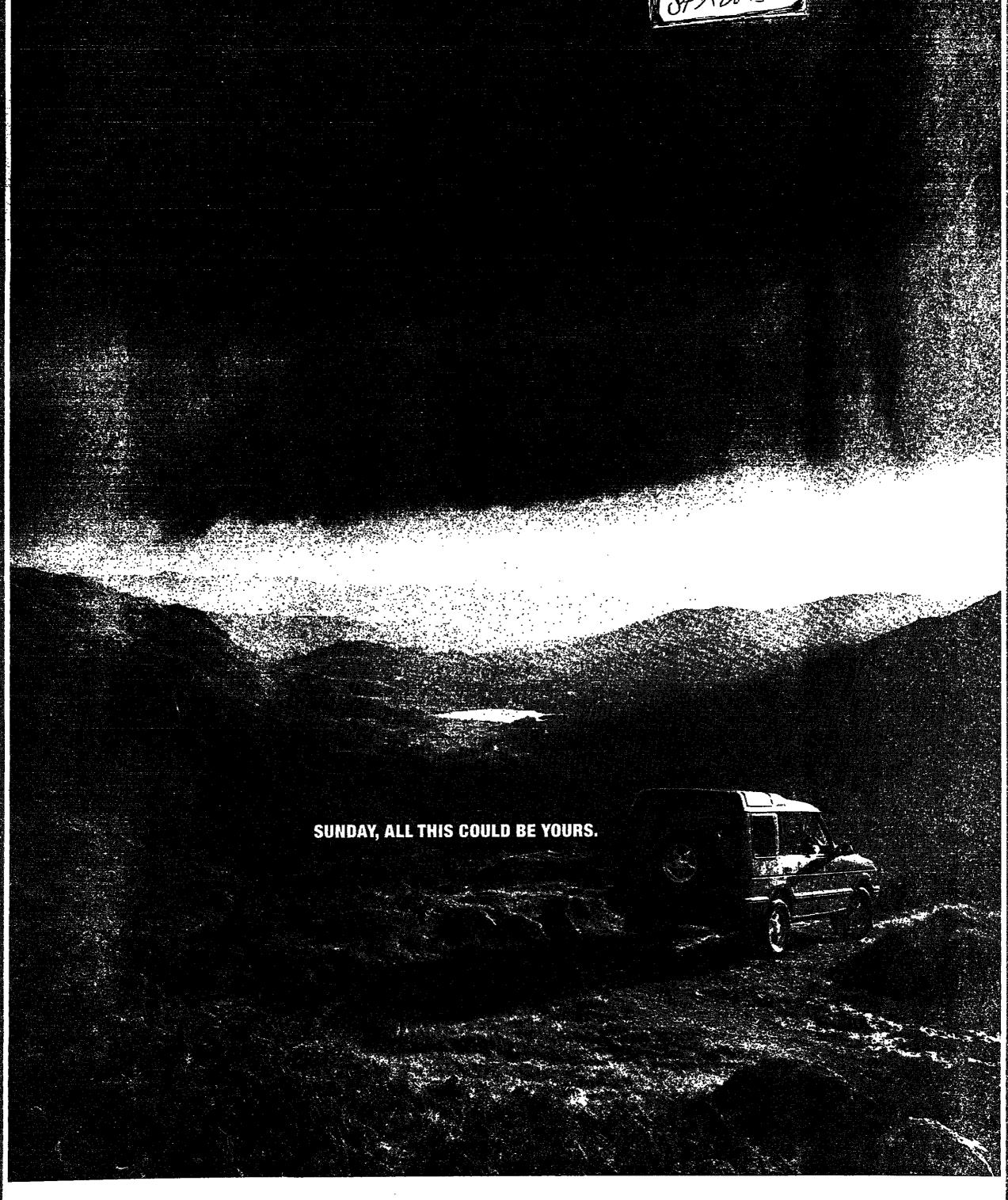
alleged he was a practising homosexual who had misled his wife - from whom he had sep-arated - about his sexuality. It also meant that he had lied to the public about having an affair with the man in France, and was a hypocrite in emphasising the importance of the family in his election address.

Times Newspapers Ltd, and the former Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil, deny libel. Mr Shaw said their defence

of justification included the assertion that Mr Ashby is carrying on a homosexual relationship with a Dr Ciaran Kilduff, a friend who helped him after his marriage break up.

Mr Shaw said that, according to the newspaper, it was in Oc-tober 1993 that Mr Ashby ad-mitted to his wife he was gay. Mr Ashby's recollection was of a highly-charged exchange in which his wife spoke of his impotence and asked if he was "a poof like his brother Brian". He found this hurtful because his brother was dying. "He did not admit he was a homosexual be-cause he isn't," said Mr Shaw.





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news

told that fat is a health risk issue

GLENDA COOPER

Feminists who claim that it is fine to be fat are ignoring med-ical evidence of substantial health risks, a senior nutritionist told a conference on obesi-

Professor John Garrow, ed-Clinical Nutrition, told the con-ference, Exploding the Myths of Obesity, that an ideal of extreme thinness was not an invention of late twentieth-century male oppression but had been around

for centuries. Professor Garrow said that although writers such as Suzy Orbach (author of Fat is a Feminist

FAT FACTS

The percentage of obese people in Britain has doubled since 1980 and is expected to double again by 2005.

A quarter of British women and a fifth of men may be obese by 2005; government targets are for only 6 per cent of men and 8 per cent of women.

Death from coronaries is three times higher in obese people.

Obesity is increasing because although food intake has declined by 20 per cent since the 1960s, energy expenditure has dropped even faster and the proportion of fat in the diet has remained stable.

Issue) and Kim Chernin had "good reason to complain that women were pressurised to be unreasonably thin", they should not let women think that there were few health risks associat-

ed with being obese. The percentage of obese people in Britain has doubled since 1980. Obesity is measured using the body mass index (weight in kilograms over height in metres squared); a BMI of less than 20 is underweight, 20-25 ideal, 25-30 overweight and over 30 obese.

For example a 5ft 8in woman weighing 11st would have a BMI of 23.3, whereas if she weighed 15st she would have a

BMI of 30. Professor Garrow said that links between obesity and dis-ease had not seemed direct in the past because variants such itor of the European Journal of as cigarette smoking and previous disease had not been taken into account.

"It's like jumping off a high building," he said, "you could say there are no risks jumping off, only when you hit the ground fast."

It had previously been thought that mortality doubled at a BMI of 38 but a study published in September this year of 115,000 nurses, which eliminated smokers and those who died within four years, showed that mortality doubled by the time the BMI reached 32.

Professor Garrow also attacked Kim Chemin's theory in Womansize The Tyranny of Stendemess that fat people suffered more from problems such as hypertension because of the stigmatisation they faced.

He said that he had studied the Pima Indians of Arizona who regarded fat as good "there is no social stigma of obesity" he said, "but 50 per cent of those over 40 are diabetics".

He called for every local authority to set up a self-financ-ing non-profit making slimming club where people could be treated by trained dieticians.

And Professor Tom Sanders, Professor of Nutrition and Dietetics at King's College, London, told the conference at Bart's hospital in central London that writers of diet books "peddled half-truths and science fiction", particularly the idea that cellulite was caused by toxins. He said cellulite was the French word for fat invented by the cosmetic industry and "was nothing to do with toxins".

"The diet book industry is a capitalist's dream. It churus out products that don't work,"

Feminists | Trouble in 'Arcadia' as developers move in



Hard to handle: A Holt's Field resident is removed from his chalet home by bailiffs yesterday

The first two families at Holt's Field, a rural hamlet near Swansea, were evicted yesterday by a property developer who wants to knock down their homes and build an executive

housing estate.

Holt's Field, on the Gower Peninsula, has been the subject of a series of bitter legal wrangles for the past six years. The ground under the hamlet of 27 chalets, which has been compared to Arcadia, the legendary Greek idyll, was bought by a property development company in 1989.

Elitestone wanted to demolish the chalets to redevelop the hamlet. The company was refused planning permission by Swansea City Council, lost on appeal to the Welsh Office, and also in the High Court.

But Tim Jones, director of Elitestone, decided to press on and evict the people from their homes. After another series of court battles, Elitestone won the right to evict them as

trespassers.
More than 50 police, bailiffs and security guards arrived to evict the people from the first five chalets shortly before 8am yesterday. The residents had installed trip wires linked to an alarm system to alert them of approaching bailiffs but they managed to cut through them

without triggering the system.
After the police, bailiffs and security guards left, a team of carpenters arrived to repair the chalets and friendly squatters moved in to the homes.

One resident, Will Sked, said they were now planning their resistance and seeking legal advice Photograph: Philip Rees from being evicted.

Ecstasy girl may have drunk too much water

Doctors who treated the ecstasy victim Leah Betts believe she may have died because she drank so much water that her brain swelled, restricting its

blood supply. The doctors, who treated Leah as she lay in a coma after

Yesterday the inquest was for-

taking an ecstasy tablet at her 18th birthday party, are expected to make their claims when the inquest into ber death gets under way early next year. Ecstasy makes its users thirsty - but also causes the body to produce a hormone which

of it fast enough and the brain swells, putting pressure on the stem and resulting in a coma.

mally opened and adjourned. The South Essex coroner, Dr Malcolm Weir, heard that Leah, an A-level student at Basildon College, had complained of headaches, nausea and numbness in her legs during the party at her parent's home in Latchingdon, Essex, on 12 No-

The inquest at Chelmsford

If a lot of water is drunk heard she told her mother she and many people will benefit." Brian Storey, leading the inquickly, the body cannot get rid had taken one ecstasy tablet and The cause of death was given as some drink before she ecstasy poisoning.

> She died in the intensive care unit at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, after doctors declared her to be brain stem dead four days later. Her life support machine was switched off and she never recovered

> The coroner's officer, PC Derek Sewell, added that some good had come from her death. Mr and Mrs Betts allowed her organs to be transplanted

A police investigation into Leah's death is currently under way. Detectives trying to trace the pusher who sold her the fatal tablet have appealed for night-clubbers in Basildon to hop" the dealer involved.

They have received more than 350 calls and pubs and nightspots targeted include Racquel's where the teenager is thought to have obtained the fatal tablet.

Detective Chief Inspector

vestigation, said: "Interesting information has come in about people who were at the Racquel's night club when the tablet

was passed on."
The inquiry has seen the arrest of four young people who have been released on bail.

Meanwhile, a young woman from East Anglia who has received Leah's lungs and heart was said to be stable yesterday. She also donated her eyes, liver and pancreas.

Leah's funeral will be held at Leah Betts: inquest told

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her village church next week. of ecstasy poisoning

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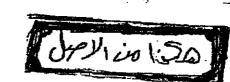
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Speaker's blunder: Fury greets 'repulsive' attempt to link gruesome killings with debate over funding of the welfare system

Baby butchery is grist for the Gingrich mill

JOHN CARLIN

Even by American standards the murders in Addison, Illinois, were horrific. Even by Washington standards the response of Newt Gingrich was a classic of expediency and had taste.

Prosecutors said yesterday they would seek the death penalty for two men and a woman arrested at the weekend in connection with the murder of a pregnant woman and two of her children, aged eight and 10. All three were stabbed and the eight-year-old boy was tortured. The killers slashed the woman's abdomen open and cut the foetus from her womb. Police found the infant, a healthy boy, in the arms of the woman they arrested.

"She said she wanted a baby," said Joe Birkett, one of the prosecutors in the case. "If a fiction writer was asked to write the most horrible crime he could think of, he wouldn't come up with this."

On Tuesday Mr Gingrich, the Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, chose to see a moral in the story, a weapon in his battle with President Bill Clinton over Republican plans to slash welfare spending and ease taxes on the rich. "Let's talk about what the welfare state has created," he Democratic Party, said: "I am

said, addressing Republican revolted that anyone would attempt to place blame on any shire. "Let's talk about the segment of society for an act of moral decay of the world the left is defending." Then he talked about the murders. "This hap-pened in America. It happened in America because for two generations we haven't had the guts to talk about right and wrong ...

"Now, a country which has this kind of thing going on – and this is not an isolated incident: there's barbarity after barbarity; there's brutality after brutality. And we shake our heads and say 'Well, what's going wrong?' What's going wrong is a welfare system which subsidised people for doing nothing: a criminal system which tolerated drug-dealers; an educational system which allows kids to not learn and which rewards tenured teachers who can't teach, while destroying poor children who it traps in the process with no hope. And then we end up with the final culmination of a drug-addicted underclass with no sense of humanity, no sense of civilisation, and no sense of the rules

respect cach other." Illinois Democrats were ap palled. in a statement citing Mr Gingrich's "lack of moral compass", Barbara Guttman, executive director of the Illinois

of life in which human beings

such unspeakable brutality. To try to win political points at a

ime like this is repulsive."

Mr Gingrich, who struggles to understand why his poll ratings are so consistently negative. engaged in a similar exercise before last year's mid-term congressional elections. He said that the case of Su-

san Smith, who drowned her two children in a lake, "vividly reminds every American how sick the society is getting and how much we need to change

Then he declared: "The only way to get change is to vote Re-publican." It later emerged that Smith came from a staunchly Republican family.



Deborah Evans (left) was murdered with her two eldest children, Samantha and Joshua. The youngest, Jordan, was found unharmed. The Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich (right), crudely attempted to exploit the crime for political ends



SA dodges key charter issues

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

The first draft of South Africa's new constitution was released esterday for public scrutiny, but nant of the key issues it was the led to have a little sed emained unresolved.

President Nelson Mandela urged all citizens to read the 15chapter document, which will soon be published in full in local newspapers. He also asked that the members of the Constitutional Assembly drafting the charter consider all constructive

Cyril Ramaphosa, the assembly chairman, has called the draft a "milestone" in the transformation of South Africa. However, senior negotiators said much hard bargaining on unresolved issues tearing at the

country still lay ahead.

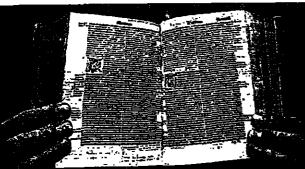
They include the question of the lifespan of the present Government of National Unity (GNU), a bill of rights, the organisation of local government, and the degree of autonomy for the country's nine provinces.

The assembly of 490 members of parliament has until 10 May next year – the second anniversary of Mr Mandela's inauguration as president - to finalise a permanent constitu-tion. The assembly will renew its deliberations on the document when it reconvenes in

Mr Mandela's African National Congress - just shy of the two-thirds majority to pass a fi-nal constitution on its own - has said it wants to replace powersharing in the GNU with majority rule. Mr Mandela, however, has said minority leaders should be included in any future government at the

discretion of the ruling party.
Of all the unresolved issues. the most contentious will probably be over provincial autonomy, which is the central demand of the ANC's arch-rivals in the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Man-

gosuthu Buthélezi. The deaf have persuaded the assembly to included sign lan-guage as South Africa's 12th of-



Good book: Mr Santos-Noya with his find

Luther's Bible found after 200 years

IMRE KARACS Bonn

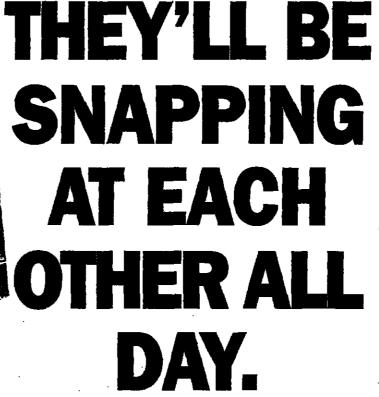
The Bible that broke the monopoly of the Catholic Church and consigned Latin to antiquity has been discovered on the musty shelves of a provincial German library. Missing for 200 years, the book on which Martin Luther based his historic translation into German was found in Stuttgart's Württemberg State Museum by a Por-

tuguese researcher. Manuel Santos-Noya came upon Luther's Vulgate, the 4thcentury Latin version of the scriptures, while cataloguing the museum's vast collection. Brushing aside the dust, the pages came alive with teeming hand-written words in the margins that seemed to be attempts to render the text into early Hochdeutsch, the language that was to evolve into modern literary German.

There were also autobiographical annotations that soon gave the identity of this 16th-century vandal away: DML - I was born in the year of 1483 ... In the year of 1518 did D Staupitz relieve me of my religious order ... In the year of 1519 did Pope Leo excommunicate me from his Church ... In the year of 1521 did Kaiser Karl expel me from his empire. Thus was I thrice shunned. But the Lord took me into His care."

A check by handwriting ex-perts established that the author of these scrawlings - DML-was indeed Doctor Martin Luther. Historians believe the book was the template for Luther's first Protestant Bible, prepared in the years 1521-22 in Wartburg castle. After the famous 95 Theses, which Luther nailed to the door of Wittenberg cathedral in 1517, the first German Bible is the most important Protestant relic.

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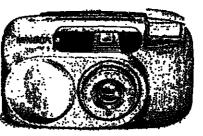


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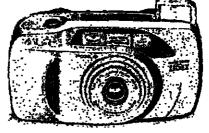
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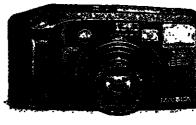
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international

Algeria looks ahead: President warned not to disregard fundamentalists after poll triumph

Jailed Islamists demand their day in court

ROBERT FISK

A week ago - just as Algerians were going to the polls to elect Liamine Zeroual as president -Mostepha Bouchachi, lawyer at the Algerian supreme court and graduate of Southampton University, walked through the forbidding iron gates of the old French-built prison of Serkadji above Algiers to talk to a

In a rectangular room reserved for prison visits, Mr Bouchachi sat down opposite Abdel Kader Hashani, the third most important figure in the banned Islamic Salvation Front, the FIS. Hashani, who has been charged with calling for desertion among the armed forces, repeated what he has been telling his lawyer for three years: "Let the government put

Mr Hashani is in solitary confinement but the authorities have allowed him a Koran and a transistor radio on which he listens - according to Mr Bouchachi - to the Arabic services of the BBC and the Voice of America. Bespectacled and invariably dressed in a grey khamis gown, he has written to President Zeroual, to the Algerian justice ministry, to his lawyer, always demanding to be taken to court.

"This kind of thing shouldn't happen in this century," Mr Bouchachi says. "Mr Hashani was a very peaceful man. He led the FIS to win the parliamentary elections in 1991. These elections were annulled by the authorities. A month later, Mr Hashani wrote a communiqué in which he said: 'I ask the armed forces to respect the constitution.' That is all he said. But two days later he was arrested - and has been in prison ever since."

The military-backed government took a somewhat different view of the Hashani cancelled elections, they regarded Hashani's call as an aplowed. "He writes to us all the

IN BRIEF

Tigers' last escape route from Jaffna cut

Colombo - Sri Lankan troops have cut off the last escape route for Tamil rebels who are defending the besieged city of Jaffna. writes Tim McGirk. A military spokesman in Colombo yesterday said that after a fierce attack in which 45 Tamil Tiger rebels

were killed, government forces managed to capture the main sup-ply road leading east out of Jaffna. The Tigers appeared to have

retaliated, however: a military transport aircraft which crashed into the ocean off the Jaffna peninsula with 62 people on board

was thought to have been shot down by the rebels.

ly, a tenth of the sum demanded by the students.

Peres sworn in to seek peace

he pledged would be dedicated to peace.

deal, writes Tony Barber.

monetary policy on track.

Cash fails to appease French students Paris — France unveiled a four-year plan to iron out inequali-ties in its overcrowded and understaffed universities by redis-

tributing funds in favour of "poor" institutions, but angry students vowed to continue sit-ins and strikes to squeeze more funding out of the state. The Education Minister, Francois Bay-

rou, said an extra 200m francs (£26.4m) would be spent annual-

Jerusalem - Shimon Peres was sworn in as Israel's Prime Minister in succession to the assassinated Yitzhak Rabin after par-liament voted 62-8, with 38 abstentions, to approve a government

London — John Major, speaking after talks in London with his Turkish counterpart, Tansu Ciller, expressed Britain's support for Turkey's bid to form a customs union with the European Union and said he hoped the European Parliament would not block the

Moscow - The Russian parliament overwhelmingly confirmed Sergei Dubinin, a reformist former acting finance minister, as the new head of the central bank. He immediately promised to keep

Paris - The public prosecutor, Gabriel Bestard, said he had

authorities said. He underwent an angioplasty to clear a blocked artery after a heart attack late last month.

Reuter

Major wants Turkey closer to Europe

Bank chief pledges to guard rouble

No offence over Chirac's cheap flat

The trouble is that the people in charge of this country don't want an independent justice system. The law was amended two years ago, giving more power to the minister of justice to suspend judges involved in certain cases.

Mr Bouchachi, as it turns out, is also the lawyer for Ali Belhadj, the second - but most popular - FIS leader, arrested before the FIS victory in the 1991 elections and subsequently sentenced to 12 years for sedition. "I am his lawyer but I haven't seen him for two years," Mr Bouchachi says. Moved briefly to house arrest,

Ali Belhadi and Abassi Madani, the FIS leader, held two series of negotiations with the government – a year ago and then again this spring; President Ze-roual insisted that the FIS publicly renounce violence. The FIS demanded the unconditional liberation of prisoners, freedom of movement and as-sociation, and permission to operate as a political party. "When the government decided to suspend the negotiations, Mr Belhadj was moved to a prison in the south," Mr Bouchachi says, "But I have no permission to see him and I don't know where he is."

The issue that now faces President Zeroual is whether to free the FIS leaders after his election victory - on the grounds that they are no longer relevant - or whether to reopen negotiations because he is strong enough to compromise. Sheikh Mahfoud Nahnah,

the leader of the moderate Islamist Hamas party, who won 25 per cent of the votes last Thursday, had called for the closing of prison camps, the liberation of political prisoners and an amnesty for certain political crimes. The secular Kabyle leader, Said Sadi, believes that FIS supporters - unable to vote for their own representatives because their party is banned statement. In the context of the gave their support to Mr Nahnah. "Fundamentalism is decreasing," Mr Sadi said after peal to the army to support the hearing that he had won 10 per FIS election victory and to cent of the vote. "The FIS votstage a mutiny. But no trial fol- ed for Hamas and 25 per cent was the best they could get - and time, saying he wants to be that's not very much for a counjudged," Mr Bouchachi says. try as big as Algeria. The rea-

son the FIS didn't want these elections was because they knew they had reached their absolute maximum [in popularity] in 1991; they knew they couldn't do it again." Algerian newspapers are this

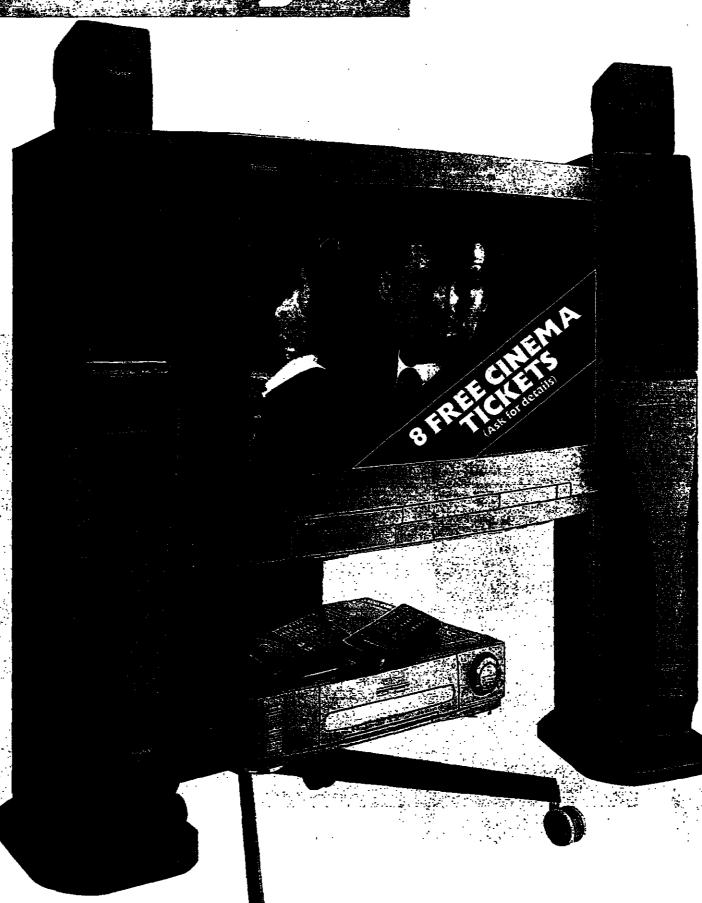
week filled with reports that Islamists are handing themselves over to the anthorities, despairing of their future after 75 per cent of the electorate, according to official figures, disobeyed their call to boycott the presidential elections.

Mr Bouchachi disputes this thesis. "Sooner or later," he says, "the government will have to deal with the FIS. They can-not make the FIS disappear. It will not go away. For Zeroual to govern, he has to reach reconciliation with the FIS, the National Liberation Front and the Front of Socialist Forces. If he tries to create his own party and hold legislative elections under high security, this will lead his country to disaster."



Fallen to earth: The toppled pinnacle of a mosque minaret in Cairo. At least 10 people died when an earthquake, centred beneath the gulf of Agaba, shook the Middle East from Lebanon to the borders of Sudan at dawn yesterday





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dropped an investigation into President Jacques Chirac over his low-rent city-owned flat "in the absence of any clear offence", lifting a political cloud over the French leader. Remer New president, same party, in Tanzania SEE THE ULTIMATE Dar es Salaam - Benjamin Mkapa, of Tanzania's ruling Party for the Revolution, was declared President with 61.8 per cent of the vote. The party also won 186 seats in the new pluralist parliament, against 46 for the four main opposition parties. Reute CINEMA AT HOME Killer cured, then executed Joliet, Illinois — George DelVecchio, a 47-year-old child-killer who underwent surgery earlier this month to relieve a heart condition, was executed by lethal injection early yesterday, prison authorities said. He understand a prison early yesterday, prison

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Single currency: Commission accused of massaging figures

EU view of French economy 'too rosy'

DIANE COYLE conomics Correspondent

The European Commission came under attack yesterday for issuing rosy economic forecasts that some economists said were intended to boost the idea that France could qualify for a

single European currency.
The forecasts were published on the same day as a more cautious assessment by the European Monetary Institute, forerunner of the European Central Bank. The differences exemplify the emerging clash between France, heavily represented in the Commission, and Germany, influential in the Frankfurt-based EMI, over the prospects for a single currency.

In its half-yearly forecast, the Commission predicted that eight countries, including France, would bring their budget deficits below the limit set out in the Maastricht treaty by 1997, in time to qualify for monetary union two years lat-er. "At the end of 1997, a sig-nificant number of countries will meet the conditions" for joining the currency union, said Yves-Thibault de Silguy, the French EU Finance Commissioner yesterday in Brussels.



Optimistic on deficits

But the monetary institute, in its first "convergence assessment", was much more down-

The report said progress towards economic convergence was insufficient. "Public finances in most member states continue to be far from satis-

factory," it said. Economists in the City criticised the Commission as too optimistic. Stephen King, head of European economics at the brokers James Capel, said: "It is designed to deliver countries into satisfying the Maas-tricht criteria rather than reflect

No country earned a glowing report from the EMI. But the institute's call for France to make more progress in cutting its budget deficit even after the social security reforms announced this month is politically sensitive. The EMI's convergence report said all member countries would have to take action to meet the deficit and

debt criteria limits.

In another sign of rising tensions over the single currency. Germany pushed ahead with plans to ensure budget disci-pline is maintained after monetary union. Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, said yesterday that European countries would work out by next year a "stability pact" to penalise countries whose deficits exceed the Maastricht target after the start of the single currency. He said French

and Dutch ministers agreed. But Mr de Silguy yesterday dismissed the idea of extra requirements, "There will be no supplementary conditions", be told a European Parliament committee. No national capital could dominate EMU discussions, he said, in a clear reference to Germany.

Only Germany, Ireland and Luxembourg already meet the

Maastricht requirement of a government deficit of less than 3 per cent of GDP. Germany's deficit, at 2.9 per cent, was sending a warning signal, ac-cording to the EMI, while Ireland's outstanding government debt was too high. Ten countries satisfy the inflation and interest rate requirements.

The European Commission' outlook for the next two years had a much more optimistic flavour. Although it has cut its forecasts for economic growth, the Commission predicts almost as strong an expansion

next year. It foresees GDP growth of 2.7 per cent in the EU this year, 26 per cent in 1996 and 29 per cent in 1997. This strong growth of GDP allows it to predict that six countries will meet the Maastricht deficit requirement next year, up from three, with eight qualifying in 1997. The forecasts incorporate the recent French budget plans, but not the tax reforms due to be announced in

the next two weeks.

Mr de Silguy said yesterday there must be no doubts about governments' resolve to cut deficits. Any uncertainty could generate a "self-reinforcing spi ral of weak sentiment".



Pilgrims from the past: A group of Massachusetts people wading ashore in costume yesterday to mark the 375th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers' first landfall, at Provincetown

Photograph:Jon Hamill/AP

STEPHEN VINES

Hong Kong's Governor, Chris

Patten, and politicians of all fac-tions reacted with shock and

shadow government and legis-

lature six months before the end

China has said already that it

will dismantle the current leg-

islature once it takes power and

has threatened to abolish human rights laws it dislikes. How-

ever, Peking officials have been careful never to suggest the es-

power. The new plan was re-

vealed in a speech on Tuesday

night by Sir Sze-yuen Chung, 78. He was previously the senior

non-government adviser to the

Governor but is now a key ad-

viser to Peking on Hong Kong.

and is talked of as leader of the

first administration under Chi-

nese sovereignty.
Sir Sze-yuen candidly stated:
"It is inevitable that a shadow

government will appear prior to the transfer of power." He said

"a few hundred staff" would be

employed in a provisional gov-

ernment secretariat. He ad-

mitted no legal basis had been

laid for a parallel legislature but said the National People's Con-

gress, China's parliament, could

easily pass such legislation. Mr Patten, visibly angered,

made it clear yesterday that "there will be only one govern-

ment in Hong Kong before 1

July 1997". He emphasised that

the current administration was

prepared to co-operate with the incoming government "but

we certainly won't be prepared

to consider anything which

could lead to divided loyalties

among civil servants or result in confusion or in eroding the ef-

fectiveness of government as a

Martin Lee, leader of Hong

all the proposals from China this where the new power lies.

Kong's largest political party, the Democratic Party, said: "Of

of British rule in 1997.

yesterday to the disclosure of a Chinese plan to set up a

Hong Kong

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Diplomatic Editor

For those in Whitehall who maintain that gentlemen do not spy on their friends, the advertisement from the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) this week rather gives the game away.

The eavesdroppers say they are looking for linguists "at the front line of intelligence translating, transcribing and analysing information".

So far, so routine. But the list of languages in which GCHQ seeks recruits gives the strong impression that its business involves much more than keeping an eye on potential baddies who concoct their fiendish plots in Arabic, Chinese or Persian. GCHQ, it transpires, is just as interested in graduates who speak Japan-

is the real shocker. Frankly, I

Less predictable opposition came from Chan Yuen-han, a

legislator representing the Peking-backed Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of

Hong Kong. Allen Lee, leader

of the Liberal Party, an advis-

er to the Chinese government, said the proposals were "not in

the interests of Hong Kong

method by which China could

have the head of the new administration chosen without an

election. The mini-constitution

by a 400-strong election com-

mittee, but Sir Sze-yuen said lee-

way existed for a less

He said that in the six-month

overlapping period the parallel

legislature would establish pro-

cedures to appoint the Chief

Justice and court of final appeal, abolish laws which are viewed as contradicting the mini-con-stitution and adopt a budget for

the coming year. All discussions between Britain and China

have been based on the as-

sumption that the budget of the

outgoing colonial administra-

tion would remain in place for

the rest of the financial year. It had also been assumed that ju-

dicial appointments would be

made before 1997 and remain

One of the few public figures to support the proposals was the

pro-China trade unionist Tam

Yiu-chung. He said a shadow

government was "inevitable

during a transfer of power" and nothing to worry about. "We need to start working and

In the past 12 months China

has been increasingly assertive about what it wants to do in

Hong Kong after 1997. Past at-

temots to win the bearts and

minds of Hong Kong people ap-

pear to have been abandoned in favour of making it clear

not wait until the handover."

in place afterwards.

cumbersome process.

tablishment of Chinese institu- for the new Hong Kong says tions before the transfer of that the choice should be made

Sir Sze-yuen also outlined a

cannot see how it can work.

ese. Or Portuguese. Or Italian. Or, for heaven's sake, Dutch. Well, in case it had escaped anyone's notice in Whitehall, we have not been at war with Japan since 1945. Portugal is our oldest ally. The Italians are not thought to have any secrets to keep. And the Dutch? Perhaps the secrets of running a sound economy despite a vanished empire are thought to be a prize beyond compare.

There are also vacancies for Spanish and German speakers, but those can be explained in two words (1) Argentina and (2) Suspicion. And linguists expert in "any rare language of potential interest to the department are also invited to apply.

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PEACE IN THE BALKANS

Nothing in it for us, Bosnian Serbs complain

TONY BARBER

The Bosnian peace plan ran into immediate trouble yesterday when a senior Bosnian Serb official denounced it as a mistake and sceptical noises were also heard from the Muslim and Croat camps. "What has been done is an especially big mistake," said Momeilo Krajisnik. the speaker of the Bosnian Serb assembly, who refused to attend Tuesday's ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, where the agreement was initialled.

The top two Bosnian Serb leaders, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, maintained a public silence on the settlement, but it appeared likely that Mr Krajisnik and other militant Bosnian Serb nationalists would call the assembly into session to reject the accord. Western diplomats played down Mr Krajisnik's hostility to the deal, saying they were relying on Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, to ensure compliance

from the Bosnian Serbs. Mr Milosevic had full powers to negotiate for the Bosnian Serbs in Ohio, a point graphically illustrated by Mr Krajisnik when he said that the Bosnian Serb representatives at the talks had not even seen the final maps showing the division pleased that the agreement US mediating efforts in Ohio,

fore the initialling ceremony. The Bosnian Serbs' complain that the deal leaves them with a militarily vulnerable, economically unviable and politi-

cally isolated mini-state.

Croatia's President, Franjo Tudjman, returning to Zagreb from Dayton, described the settlement as good for his country, but some parts of the

Nobel nomination

Belgrade (Reuter) - Sup-porters of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said yesterday they would nominate him for the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in the peace agreement. There was no mention of calls abroad for Mr Milosevic to be prosecuted as a war criminal.

state-supervised media were conspicuously restrained in their enthusiasm. The newspaper Vjesnik said the US negoiators who brokered the peace had failed to understand that "the only thing important to Milosevic was territory and to some extent the lifting of United Nations sanctions'

Bosnia's Muslim President, Alija Izetbegovic, said he was

of Bosnia until 10 minutes be-fore the initialling ceremony. would bring peace but added that he was dissatisfied with the failure to resolve a territorial dispute around the town of Brcko in northern Bosnia. He also said he had achieved only 80 to 90 per cent of what he wanted for Sarajevo, which is to become a unified, open city under the accord.

> Western governments, aware that the agreement needs to be implemented quickly if it is to succeed, are gearing up to send 60,000 Nato troops, including 20,000 Americans, to Bosnia to supervise it. British officials said yesterday they expected Britain to contribute about 15,000 soldiers, up from the present number of about 8,000 serving with UN forces in former Yugoslavia

> After the settlement is signed in Paris in early December, foreign ministers from around the world will meet in London on 8 and 9 December to work out the precise details of how to implement it. Meanwhile, Germany will host a conference in Bonn to put together a comprehensive arms control regime for former Yugoslavia.

However, the atmosphere of constructive Western co-operation was poisoned somewhat yesterday when the French gov-

preferring instead to criticise US policies in the Balkans since 1991. "The fact of the matter is that the Americans looked at this former Yugoslavia business from a great distance for nearly four years and basically they obstructed developments.

said the Foreign Minister,

Juppé, observed sniffily that the US plan accepted in Ohio "looks like a twin of the European plan presented 18 months ago". The ministers' remarks appeared to reflect frustration that the European Union had been unable to forge a peace settlement for Bosnia and in the end was sidelined as US diplo-

sion turned into a US-led man-

hunt for a Somali warlord. "It's

not Somalia, it's not Vietnam, they're not going in unless they have very tight guarantees." Much depends on whether Bosnia can be kept separate from the struggle between Congress and the White House over the budget, which will be played out

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Bringer of peace: President Alija Izetbegovic greeted by a guard of honour on his return to Sarajevo from Ohio Photograph: Danilo Krstanovic/Reuter Help 6 million to rebuild their lives

As the promise of peace descends on former Yugoslavia, our Children of War Christmas appeal has already raised more than £10,000. We are asking readers to support four charities, each of which is actively seeking to help children whose lives have been blighted by four years of war.

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Save the Children, whose main effort is focused on children who have been separated from their families, counselling and re-uniting them:

The Red Cross, which is conducting the largest humanitarian enterprise in the region.



looking after camps of refugees, and linking people through its famous messaging network; War Child, which plans to

build a £2.5m music therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgently needed prosthetics out to wounded children in the Tu-

Child Advocacy International, which aims to bring up to 100 sick children back to Britam for treatment they could not possibly hope to obtain at home. Please write your cheques or postal order individually to the charity of your choice.

White House rallies support for mission RUPERT CORNWELL has his way, and that at least unshortly to explain why Amerinam, nor of Somalia in 1993, nior advisers were already hard when a UN humanitarian mis-

Washington

The White House is considering extending President Bill Clinton's trip to Europe next week to include a visit to US troops preparing to go to Bosnia, with the aim of rallying support from a sceptical Con-

In practice, little doubt exists that, one way or another, US troops will go to Bosnia. History shows that in committing US

til serious mishaps, public opin-ion will rally behind him. Even so, the Administration

is acutely aware that for a mission as potentially risky as Bosnia some kind of Congressional approval would provide vital political cover should things go wrong. As soon as the Thanksgiving

holiday, which begins today, is over, the Administration will start to make its case in earnest on Capitol Hill, while officials say Mr Clinton will make a tele-

ca's national interest demands the presence of 20,000 American troops in Bosnia.

In the meantime, some modification seems inevitable to the visit, which takes Mr Clinton to London, Belfast, Dublin and finally Madrid - most probably the addition of a stop in Germany. There Mr Clinton would meet the First Armoured Division, backbone of the future US peace-keeping force.

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But yesterday, just hours after the initialling ceremony in Dayton, Ohio, Mr Clinton's se-

at work on the talk shows, from the Vice-President, Al Gore, who described the risks of the mission as "minimal", and in any case vastly less than those of staying out, to Richard Holbrooke, the Assistant Secretary of State whose relentless negotiating was largely responsible for the accord.

If the three rivals violated the Dayton deal before deployment started, Mr Holbrooke told NBC's Today programme, "then we're not going to go". Bosnia would not be a repeat of Viet-

in parallel over the next month. If feelings run as high as they did when the government was shut down earlier this week, entanglement of the two seems certain.

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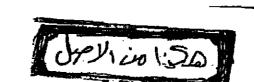
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The terms: For all its high ideals, the settlement rewards ethnic cleansing

TONY BARBER Europe Editor

The Bosnian peace agreement represents a brave attempt to assert fundamental Western values in the Balkans after a war in which combatants on all sides treated those values with contempt. The settlement aims to protect human rights, ensure free elections and defend the principle that borders cannot be changed by force, yet it is founded on a division of territory that implicitly recognises that the war's ugliest consequences are unlikely to be reversed.

The central feature of the agreement is that Bosnia remains a united state in its prewar borders, but is split between a Muslim-Croat federation with 51 per cent of the land and a Bosnian Serb republic with 49 per cent. Sarajevo, which the Serbs wanted to partition, will stay united in the Muslim-Croat federation with freedom of movement for all nationalities.

The agreement awards the federation the eastern Muslim enclave of Gorazde, which is to be linked to the federation by a narrow corridor. But all other towns in eastern Bosnia from which Serb forces expelled Muslims from April 1992 onwards are allocated to the Bosnian Serb republic.

One issue was not settled at Dayton, Ohio, and will be decided by international arbitration within a year. This concerns the Serb demand for a wider corridor near the northern town of Brcko to connect Serb possessions in west and eastern Bosnia. The Bosnian government wanted access to the Sava



river, which runs along the Bosnian-Croatian border in the disputed area, while the Croats were outraged at suggestions that they should sacrifice the historically Croat region of Posavina to accommodate the Serbs. The issue almost torpe-

doed the Ohio negotiations. Central Bosnian government institutions will include a presidency, a two-chamber legislature, a constitutional court and a central bank. The government will be responsible for foreign policy, foreign trade, monetary

Territory recently captured by Muslim/Crost federation, to be returned to Serbs Serbs want corridor widened to 12 miles south of river Sava, including the towns of Brcko and

3 Sarajevo Bosnia's capital to be reintegrated in Muslim/Croat ederation as a united city. Serbs

Mrkonjic Grad

Gorazde corridor Permanent land link between Musirm Gorazde enclave and Muslim/Croat tederation

o cade land in suburbs and

oopulation can remain

Town to be united under Muslim/Croat authority

People charged with war crimes by the United Nations are barred from holding office. This would include Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb leaders, and Dario Kordic and General Tihomir Blaskic, two senior Bosnian Croat leaders.

Nato forces implementing the peace agreement will have the authority to arrest indicted war criminals if they encounter them, but will not be given the task of tracking them down. The forced when the UN embargo peace deal requires the governments of Serbia, Croatia, during the war is not explained.

Bosnia and the two Bosnian entities to co-operate with the UN tribunal.

In Serbia's case, UN sanctions will not be fully lifted until such co-operation is forthcoming and Belgrade addresses other concerns, notably the treatment of the ethnic Albanian majority in the southern province of Kosovo. This means Serbia will be denied access to international financial institutions and refused readmission to other organisations.

The settlement creates a Commission on Human Rights with an internationally appointed ombudsman and a Human Rights Chamber to hear cases brought by Bosnian citizens. It says the chamber will have the authority to order the Muslim-Croat federation and the Serb republic to stopabuses, but does not explain how the chamber can ensure compliance with its instructions.

Bosnia's 2 million or more refugees are assured of their right to return home or obtain 'just compensation" for their losses. However, this clause may be a dead letter, as it is hard to imagine victims of "ethnic cleansing", such as the Muslims of northern and eastern Bosnia, returning to areas where their tormentors now rule the roost.

The agreement envisages a phased lifting of the UN arms embargo on former Yugoslavia, with the combatants barred from acquiring tanks, heavy ar-tillery, mines, military aircraft and attack helicopters for 180 days. How such limits can be enwas broken with great ease



Students greeting President Izetbegovic on his return to Sarajevo

Serbians' fighting talk lays siege to the symbolism of Sarajevo

EMMA DALY

etter

respor Crising

The Dayton agreement is supposed to restore the physical unity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and in particular of Sarajevo. But the most significant and symbolic issue of the peace negotiations will almost certainly be the hardest to enact on the

Sarajevo, promised Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, "will be unified. Checkpoints and closed bridges will no longer divide the families of that

Under the deal agreed this week, the Bosnian government will assume control of Ilidza, Grbavica, Ilijas, Vogosca and Hadzici, roughly north and west of Sarajevo and the heartland of the siege waged against the graves."

ko Djukic, a civilian who fled his home in Sarajevo in February 1993, agreed. "It has always been Serb and it will always remain. Many people have been killed here, many young men,

and we cannot leave their

However, the Muslim-Croat

and Serb zones will have their

own presidencies, legislatures

and - crucially - armies. It is open to doubt whether Bosnia's

federal institutions will stamp

their authority on the two sub-

states. The agreement envisages

free elections to the legislature

and presidency as well as to

those of the Muslim-Croat and

Serb entities within six to nine

months. Refugees will have the

right to vote in their original

place of residence, but it is not

clear how they will be helped to

lim," Dragan, a Bosnian Serb policeman, said fiercely. "Too many people have died." Milen-ernment side is supposed to exernment side is supposed to exereise over its new Serb dominions.

Are French or American sol-

diers to persuade the Serbs to surrender their weapons and accept a new life in harmony with their neighbours, albeit at the point of a gun? Or will the world settle for nominal polit-Residents have a different For" (the Nato Implementation ical control, perhaps securing idea. "Ilidza will never be Mus- Force) is to persuade such cit- main roads out for local traffic

but opting to go extremely a bureaucratic maze, cross the slowly on the return of refugees Bridge of Brotherhood and from Sarajevo to its Serb-held suburbs and vice versa? A peaceful reintegration may

Serbs leave rather than live under government rule. At present, Sarajevans from the government side can drive through Ilidza with a UN escort; a few (mostly women, children and the elderly) from both sides can, if they have completed

Unity linking Grbavica to the city centre. Travel restrictions may ease - under the watchful eyes of the peace-keepers. mean that the buge majority of

But how to build sufficient trust to enable freer movement? Most residents on the government side say they want to live with "good" Serbs, those who have committed no war crimes. In Ilidza, such distinc-tions are dismissed. "What will

they think of me?" asked Dragan. "I have been in Ilidza since the start of the war defending my home. Will I be a 'good' Serb or a 'bad' one? Who will judge?"

Among the Serbs interviewed close to the front line there was no desire to share anything with Muslims or Croats. "Sarajevo must be divided into a Serb part and a Muslim part, with nothing for the Croats," Mr

and hostility stems from an acknowledgement that the Bosnian Serbs have watched victory slip from their grasp; like thei: enemies on the government side, they complain of an "unjust peace". Only the people of Bosnia - and their politicians can create a modus vivendi; I-For has the unenviable task of ensuring that the sense of defeat does not spawn actions of suicidal revenge.

Clearly, some of the anguish





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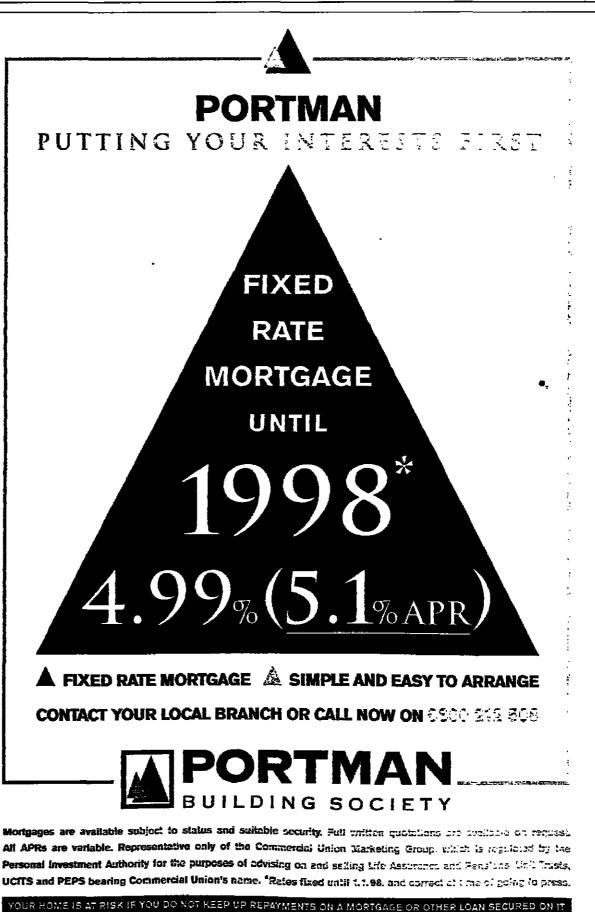
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Esther

Salaman

Knowing no English, but armed with a recommendation to Sir Ernest Rutherford from Albert

Einstein, Esther Polianowski

arrived in Cambridge in 1925.

Though she was only 25, she had already had an adventurous

life in three very different coun-

tries. At 19 she had left Russia

to escape from civil war and per-

secution of Jewish people, and

joined a group of pioneer set-tiers in Palestine. Returning to

the Russian border two years lat-

John Collier

John Collier was an outstanding leader and champion for nuclear power and the industry that supported it. In recent years, his vision and determination were demonstrated by his achievements as Chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) and then, from 1990, as the first Chairman of Nuclear Electric.

Collier recognised the need to define a new future for the UKAEA as its traditional nuclear power mission neared completion. His strategy was based on the commercial exploitation of its rich technological inheritance, while responsibly managing the liabilities from its mission. He led the transformation required to translate this goal into reality, and it is a tribute to his vision and leadership that AEA Technology is now on the threshold of privatisation.

It was no surprise that in 1990 John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, turned to Collier after the failure to privatise the nuclear power component of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and invited him to be the first Chairman of Nuclear Electric, set up to run the nuclear power stations in England and Collier accepted this chal-

lenge, recognising the immen-sity of the task, and with some regrets at having to leave AEA at the turning point in its transformation. At the outset, he set out his vision for the new company in terms of key strategic goals. The degree to which these goals were achieved, with a remarkable turnaround in the company's performance and the establishment of the base for the planned privatisation of its AGR and PWR stations, was perhaps the crowning achievement of Collier's career. Especially noteworthy was the completion of the Sizewell B power station, the first pressurised water reactor in Britain. The special satisfaction with which Collier saw the station's successful entry into service this year was reflected in his delivery, only a few weeks ago, of the Hinton Lecture, to the Royal Academy of Engineers.

Like a number of great en-gineers, including his illustrious predecessor at UKAEA and the Central Electricity Generating Board Christopher Hinton, Collier started his career at the bottom, leaving school at the age of 16 to join the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell as a student apprentice this day, used by students and in 1951. This provided the gate-practising engineers world-wide.



way to a scholarship at University College London where he graduated with a First Class degree in chemical engineering. His practical training in the Har-well Apprentice School provided him with a sound grounding in applied engineering and an instinctive feel for the shop floor that stood him in good stead throughout his career. He retained a great affection for the apprentice school and a strong interest in the development and training of young people. One of his many strengths was his ability to communicate his enthusiasm for engineering at all levels. It was particularly appropriate that he was chosen, during the last year, to play a key role in Michael Heseltine's initiative on Action for Engineering by chairing a task force on communicating more effectively the

On leaving university in 1957, Collier returned to a Harweli which, under John Cockcroft's leadership, had developed into one of the world's great research laboratories. It was in this highpowered environment that Collier embarked on his research into heat transfer and fluid flow. Although pioneering in nature, his work had a strong practical engineering theme in laying the foundations for improved design and operation of boilers in nuclear power stations. This practical thrust was maintained through his periods in the 1960s with Atomic Energy of Canada (AECL) and with the Atomic Power Construction in Britain. On returning to Harwell, he brought his research to its culmination with his book Convective Boiling and Con-densation (1972), which has re-

mained a standard reference to

importance of technology.

In the 1970s and into the 1980s, Collier's career took on a wider dimension as he was given more demanding and wideranging management tasks with the UKAEA. He developed a broader expertise in the technology and safety of light-water reactors, and also got increas-ingly involved with policy issues of international importance. Working with Walter Marshall. first at UKAEA and then at CEGB, Collier played an important part in the decision to switch the UK's nuclear pro-gramme to PWRs (and was saddened that only one has been built so far). This set the basis for the subsequent leading roles he played with UKAEA and Nuclear Electric.

His achievements were recognised by his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society, in 1990. Most recently, he was acclaimed by his fellow chemical engineers through his election as President of the Institute of Chemical Engineers.

John Collier was a big man both in physical presence and personality. Although he was a man of clear conviction, he sought to persuade rather than dominate others. At meetings, his warmth and sense of humility, together with his determination to get to the bottom of issues, encouraged others to express their views openly. He had the intellectual grasp and vision to reach clear conclusions which he then acted on decisively, even when that involved ruffling feathers.

Although essentially a private and serious man, John Collier enjoyed life immensely and had a tremendous sense of humour. Even when the going was tough, he thought that work should be fun. He had a great love of music and painting and a particular passion for Turner, he was particularly pleased by the proposition that the Tate Gallery should acquire Bankside Power Station, a Nuclear Electric inheritance from the former John Gordon Collier, chemical CEGB. His greatest sporting love was cricket and as a young man at Harwell he was an enthusiastic fast bowler, it must have been an awesome sight.

Brian Eyre

If there has been a sea-change in the attitude of the broad Left in Britain towards civil nuclear power - and there has - it can be ascribed to two centres of origin: to the organisation Trade Unions for Safe Nuclear Energy, chaired by Bill Morgan of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, and to John Collier, writes Tam Dalyell.

From the time he became chairman of the UKAEA in 1987, Collier went to infinite pains to explain what the UKAEA and, later, Nuclear Electric, were trying to do, to sceptical and worried MPs. As a believer in civil nuclear power, I marvelled at his skill and patience in handling over many a lunch my more nervous and doubting parliamentary colleagues. He was memorable for his clarity of exposition, which was in the Lord Penney class, and for his cheerful, if not always too exact, use of cricketing terms such as "googly", "chinaman" and "lbw" to de-scribe problems of complex engineering or atomic physics. Possibly his favourite riposte to MPs asking slightly truculent know-all questions was "You might think that you have bowled a fast yorker on the leg

stump, but it is playable."
In his youth Collier had been a strapping, demon, if less than ccurate, pace bowier, according to a friend of mine who faced him.

Possibly his most important long-term achievement in the great scheme of matters nuclear was quiet and behind the scenes. It was Collier who at senior level at any rate first identified the colossal potential threat to the cause of nuclear power in the world if potentially unstable power stations in eastern Europe, such as Kozloduy, in Bulgaria, or Smolensk, in the Soviet Union, were to suffer accident rather than incident.

"Another Chernobyl," he sighed anxiously, "might shut Sizewell. We'd better face up to that." Therefore he instigated and backed with sustained zeal Western efforts to provide expert personnel and expertise to help. In the West's own selfinterest he argued we ought to spend more money in doing what we could to ensure safety in EasternEurope.

cngineer: born London 22 Jan-uary 1935; Head, Engineering Sciences Group, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, Harwell 1970-75, Head, Chemical Engi-neering Division 1975-77 Memneering Division 1975-77. Member, Atomic Energy Technical Unit 1979-81, Director of Technical Studies 1981-82, Deputy Chairman 1986-87, Chairman 1987-90; Director General, Generation Development and construction Division, CEGB Barnwood 1983-86; Chairman, Nuclear Electric 1990-95; FRS 1990; married 1956 Ellen Mitchell (one son, one daughter);



Natural horseman: White in action on Nizefela, 1953

Wilf White

Wilf White was a key figure in the glory days of British showjumping in the 1950s - when the sport's leading riders were all household names - and a member of the team that won Britain's only Olympic gold medal for show-jumping. The victory was achieved in 1952 at Helsinki, where White so nearly became the individual champion on his great horse Nizefela. He would have won but for the controversial decision of a judge, who thought that the horse had dropped a foot in the water. The four faults incurred

Sir Harry Llewellyn, who was also on the victorious team, has always been convinced that Nizefela cleared the water. "It was not considered 'British' to complain and so no objection was lodged," Llewellyn wrote in his autobiography. "I think to this day that Wilf White is the unluckiest man I have ever known not to have won an

as a result left White in fifth

individual gold medal." Though he possessed a determined streak, White was not a man to push himself forward. He had surprised everybody

when taking a nap between the

two rounds of the Olympic con-test, in which he had the best British score. He was equally easy-going and unassuming after the medal ceremony when Llewellyn (already famous for his exploits with Foxhunter) became the inadvertent focus of media attention.

White, the son of a farmer, was born in Cheshire in 1904. He began show-jumping at the age of 17 and forged a successful partnership with a grey horse called Desire, before he bought the then four-year-old Nizefela in 1946. The young horse was the result of an unplanned union between a two-year-old Shire colt and the small thoroughbred mare whose field he had jumped into.

Nizefela became as famous for his kick-back as for his ability to clear big fences. He ha-bitually lashed back with his hindlegs while in mid-air but White, who was a wonderful natural horseman, always kept in balance with his mount.

The late Col Sir Mike Ansell. who was responsible for the post-war success of British show jumping, called White "the fullback" of his Nations Cup teams. He contributed to eight British

team victories at White City between 1949 and 1957 - on all but the first occasion with Nizefela, who was also his mount when winning a team bronze medal (again with the best British score) in the 1956 Olympics. In 1958. White was appointed OBE for his services to show-

jumping.
White was a long-serving member of the British Show Jumping Association's executive committee and he was a steward at the Royal Show for 21 years. He had ridden over hurdles and was later successful as a permit-holding trainer of National Hunt horses, with successes in both hurdle races and steeplechases. He was still driving a wagon and caravan when he was 70; he jumped at Olympia at the same age.

White and his second wife, Mary Cowley, moved in 1980 to the Isle of Man. He suffered from Alzheimer's disease for the last five years of his life.

Genevieve Murphy

Wilfrid Harry White, farmer, show-jumper and horse trainer: born Cheshire 30 March 1904; OBE 1958; twice married; died Isle of Man 21 November 1995.

er, she succeeded in first locating and then bringing out her widowed mother and four siblings to Palestine. She later left for Berlin, where she gained admission to the Physics Faculty of the university. Einstein, one of her professors there, advised her to leave Germany after graduating and go to Cambridge.

She was helped to take up a

Rentoul 3

research studentship at the Cavendish Laboratory by a Jewish philanthropist, Redcliffe Salaman FRS. Through him she met his son Myer, who was to be her husband for 68 years. When they married she gave up her studentship, not wishing to make a career in sciences but to devote herself to literature.

She was fluent in Russian and spoke Hebrew and German well, but she had now committed herself to life in England. That she actually succeeded in writing and publishing her first novel. Two Silver Roubles (1932) in English within six years might seem incredible to anyone who did not know her husband. Myer Salaman was a scientist, but also a cultured man with great literary skill and with an uncanny insight into his wife's thoughts and feelings. Even Esther's second novel, The Fertile Plain (1956), though written much later, owed a great deal to their literary collaboration. Another source of encouragement was the poet Frances Cornford. She was a close friend, and published a collection of Poems from the Russian with Esther Salaman in 1943.

The Fertile Plain is a fascinating reminiscence of Esther's childhood in a Ukrainian Jewish timber-merchant's family. and it set her off on an extensive study of the way in which other writers tap their earliest memories and recreate them in fiction and autobiography. Her knowledge of 19th-century Russian and English literature was profound, and she now also immersed herself for many vears in the works of Proust.

It was characteristic of her independent cast of mind that she always preferred to draw on the original writings of her chosen subjects rather than those of critics and academics. Two very Collection of Moments (1970) deals specifically with involuntary memories - her own, and those of other writers who wrote about their early childhood. The Great Confession (1973) explores in greater depth the use of memory by four of these: Aksakov, De Quincey, Tolstoy and Proust.

Though she was no doubt saddened by the fact that none of her books was a popular success, she never regretted abandoning physics and becoming a writer. It was to her an absolute

Esther Polianowski, writer, born

Professor R. J. Brocklehurst

R.J. Brocklehurst was appointed to the Chair of Physiology at Bristol University in 1930, at the early age of 31, and served in this canacity until his retirement in 1965. Thus his period of office covered a time of almost unprecedented change in universities. By virtue of his upbringing, character and ethos he was clearly more comfortable in the earlier rather than the later years of his long tenure.

Brocklehurst had a highly successful academic career at Oxford and at St Bartholomew's Hospital, graduating in medicine in 1924. Two years in the United States on a Travelling Fellowship were followed by lectureships at University College London, before his appointment to Bristol in 1930. During this time he published a number of papers on physiological topics and developed a taste for mountaineering. He maintained a special interest in the hormones of the gastrointestinal tract and subsequently produced a number of papers on medical education. In Bristol, Brocklehurst was

responsible for the teaching of medical and dental students, but the department was small and poorty resourced and he had to spend much of his time building it up. In spite of his youth and heavy workload, he became within four years Dean of the medical faculty, an arduous position which he filled with skill and patience for 13 years.

Brocklehurst was a highly efficient administrator and consequently much sought after to serve on committees. These not only included the fields of medical and dental education and hospital administration but, as a committed Christian, over 20 years as a churchwarden at his local church and also representation of the Diocese of Bristol on the Church Assembly (predecessor of the Synod) and membership of the Central Board of Finance. At one time he was serving on more than 100 committees and was chairman of a number of them. Since he was notably conscientious they must have consumed an enor-

He did not find it easy to delegate and kept a tight rein on morning. In all he did he paid



tent of writing all the departmous amount of his time and mental orders personally, which, being a man of routine. he did regularly every Saturday the department, even to the ex- a great attention to detail and accuracy and was aptly described on one occasion as a person who did not like you to push if it said pull.

Brocklehurst was determined to take his share of teaching in the department and gave as many of the First Year lectures as he could fit into his busy schedule. The students found his lectures clear and comprehensive and all recall the fact that promptly at 9am the Lecture Theatre doors were locked, to deter latecomers, something that would be totally prohibit-

ed under fire regulations today. In the two decades following the end of the Second World War, the university expanded rapidly and changes came thick and fast. In all those involving the medical faculty, Brockle-

hurst played his part. For ex- He was modest, kind, courteous ample, he gave meticulous attention to the planning and equipping of the New Medical School in the early Sixties, even though he knew that his own occupation of the building would be brief. The continual changes could not have been easy for an already busy man nearing retirement, who was happiest when dealing with things that had "stood the test of time".

Robin Brocklehurst -"Brocky" to his staff and students - took pride in knowing all his students by name. He was an excellent examiner and always fair, and was regarded with affection and respect. He was a very private person, a gentle-man of his time with a full measure of old-fashioned virtues. Phymouth 21 October 1995.

tirement at Newton Ferrers, in Devon, enjoying his garden. Anne Cole Robert James Brocklehurst, physiologist: born Liverpool 16 September 1899; Radcliffe Travelling Fellow, Dept of Physiolo-

reliable and unsparing of him-

self in the performance of his

duties. He spent his long re-

gy and Biochemistry, University College London 1926-28, Lecturer 1928-29, Senior Lecturer 1929-30; Professor of Physiology, Bristol University 1930-65 (Emeritus), Dean of the Faculty of Medicine 1934-47; married 1928 Sybille Risk (died 1968; two sons, one daughter), 1970 Dora Watts (died 1986); died

Zhitomir, Ukraine 6 January 1900; married 1926 Myer Salaman (died 1994; one son, three daughters); died London 9 November 1995,

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

MORRIS: Peacefully at home, on 20 November 1995, W.I.C. Morris (1an), FRCOG, Professor Emeritus of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Manchester University, beloved husband of the late Mary Farquharson, dear father of Jane and a loving grandfather to Patrick, Emma, Domnic and Mary Marcella, Funeral service on Saturday, 25 November in Dundee Crematorium at 11.15am, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family thowers only.

RICE: The death occurred in the ear-RICE: The death occurred in the early hours of Monday 20 November 1995, at the Royal Devon and Enter Hospital, of Alexander Pershing Rice BSc FRICS FRSA FICeram, latterly senior partner of Messrs Cremer and Warner, Consulting Chemical Engineers. Beloved husband of Verity, and father to Iain. Anna, Malcolm and Duncan. Funeral 11.30am on Friday 24 November at St Michael's Parish Church. Chapford, Devon. Family flowers only, please, but douations to Oxfam, Action Aid or Age Concern would be appreciated.

Lectures

University College London, London WC1 (at Chemistry Auditorium, 20 Gordon Street): Sir Frank Kermode, "A Zeal to Destroy: the fate of the 'humanities'," 5.30pm. London School of Economies, London WC2: Professor Patrick Suppes,
"The Nature of Freedom" (Sir Karl Popper Lecture), 5.30pm. Royal Society. London SW1: Professor J. Chapman and Mr G. Henderson, Energy Ratings for Dwellings , 5.30pm.

Forthcoming

and Miss C. F. Rathbook The engagement is announced be-

and Tina, daughter of Tim Rathbone

marriages Mr A. Mueller

tween Anton, son of G. Anton Mueller, of Twisp, Washington, United States, and of Susan Cosgriff Kirk, of Denver, Colorado, United States, MP, of Ripe, East Sussex, and Margrita Nutting, of Hammersmith, London.

Birthdays

Professor Colin Adamson-Macedo, engineering and higher education consultant, 73; Mr Nicholas Baker MP, 57; Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Biggs, former Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff to Commander-in-Chief Fleet, 57; Mr Jerry Bock, composer, 67; Mrs Anne Burns, for-mer gliding champion, 80; Mr Maxwell Chilfield, actor, 36; Mr John Cole, former BBC television politi-cal editor, 68; Mr John Coulling, for-mer chairman, London Philharmonic Orchestra, 69; Mr Bruce Edgar, cricketer, 39; Col Sir Allan Gilmour, former Lord-Lieutenant of Suther-land, 79; Mr Michael Gough, actor, 78; Mr Shane Gould, swimmer, 40; Sir John Hermon, former Chief Constable, RUC, 67; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Knight, formerly UK military representative at Nato, 63; Sir David Lees, chairman, GKN, 59; Mr Christopher Logue, poet and au-thor, 69; Mr Alan Mullery, footballer, 54; Mr Julian Oxley, Director-General, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 57; Mr Krzysztof Pen-derecki, composer, 62; Mr Anton Poot, former chairman and managing director, Philips, 66; Lord Pross er, a Senator of the College of

Justice in Scotland, 61; Miss Diana

Quick, actress, 49; Sir Peter Saunders,

theatrical producer, 84; Sir Peter Strawson, metaphysical philosopher, 76; Professor John Tarn, Professor

of Architecture, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Liverpool University, 61; Mr Nigel Tranter, novelist and his torian, 86; Lt-Col George West, an Extra Equerry to the Queen, 58.

Anniversaries

Births: Otto the Great, Holy Roman emperor, 912; Thomas Attwood, or-H. Bonney (Billy the Kid), outlaw, 1859; Boris Karloff (William Henry Pratt), actor, 1887. Deaths: Ladislas V, King of Hungary, 1457; Thomas Tallis, organist and composer, 1585; L'Abbé Antoine-François Prévost D'Exiles, author, 1763; Dr Hawley D'Exiles, author, 1763; Dr Hawley Harvey Crippen, murderer, executed 1910; Sir Emest Alfred Thompson Wallis Budge, Orientalist and museum curator, 1934; André-Georges Malraux, novelist, 1976; Merle Oberon, actress, 1979. On this day: Molière's Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme was first performed in Paris, 1670; the first pullar box was erected (at St Helier, Jersey), 1852; the first meeting of the General Medical Council was held in London, 1858; Or Who was first shown by the BBC, 1963; Britain's first commercial ra-dio station was opened on the Isle of Man, 1964. Today is the Feast Day of St Alexander Nevsky, prince, St Amphilochius, St Clement I, pope. St Columbanus, St Felicitas, St Gregory of Girgenti and St Trudo or Trond.

Receptions Prime Minister The Prime Minister, Mr John Major MP, was bost at a reception held yes-terday at 10 Downing Street, London SW1, in honour of the National Asthma Campaign.

Luncheons

Princess Margaret was the guest of honour at a funcheon held yesterday by the Musicians Benevolent Fund at Banqueting House, London SW1, to celebrate the Festival of St Cecilia. Sir lan Hunter, Chairman, was in the chair. Mr Andrew Davis, Chief Conductor, BBC Symphony Orchestra, was the principal speaker.

Dinners

Inner Temple Lord Justice Hirst, Treasurer, Inner Temple, and Masters of the Bench, held a dinner yesterday evening at the Honourable Society of Inner Temple, London EC4, to mark the Grand Day of Michaelmas Term.

English-Speaking Union Baroness Brigstocke, Chairman, English-Speaking Union, presided at the 1995 Churchill Lecture yesterday at Guildhall, London EC2. Lord Dahrendorf, Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, gave the lecture.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Queen and The Daths of Edibbiorgh strend as event quomated by Africa VS and Depthord City Chailenge, as Depthord, London SSB, The Daths of Edibbiorgh Phonorary Life Member, British 50th-Aqua Cath, presents the 1994 Duke of Edibbiorgh's Prace at Busingham Plates: as Paron, promosa Bitala Abileta Federation Awards and World Record Plaquas at Buckingham Plates. and as Pastron and Theilith Man, presents the Lord's Extremel Diophy at Buckingham Plates. The Princesson of Weight pays a working twint to Argentation. The Princesson of Weight pays a working that the Princess Royal Plats for Curren, west Swindon Carers Centre, opens the new estension to Swindom Cangel Control, and the Princesson of Weight and Control, Co ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard

Abta contracts with travel agent's customer

Association of British Travel Agents Ltd; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Hobbouse); 21 November 1995

The notice displayed by tour operators who were members of Abta describing Abta's scheme of protection against the financial failure of its members would be understood by the ordinary member of the public as importing an intention by Abta to create legal re-lations with customers of Abta

members. The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst dissenting) allowed an appeal by the plaintiffs, Emma Bowerman and Stephen Wallace, from Mr Justice Mitchell's decision that the defendant, Abta, was not liable to reimburse the plaintiffs the costs of insurance cover

paid for a lost holiday. The first plaintiff, a school girl, and the second plaintiff, a leacher, were booked on a school skiing holiday with a tour operator who was an Abta member. Abta, a trade association of travel agents and tour operators, promoted its members by publishing how it pro-tected the public from the risk of the agent's or operator's insolvency. The Abta notice displayed in the operator's office describing Abta's scheme of

LAW REPORT

protection against the financial the appeal, said that a reader failure of its members, included words such as "Abta seeks to arrange for you to continue with the booked arrangement as far as possible and ensures that if you are abroad you will be able to return to the

United Kingdom." The operator became insolvent but the skiing holiday was arranged with another operator who received the Abta refund. However Abta's reimbursement did not include the holiday insurance premium paid by each party on the tour. The plaintiffs claimed from Abta a refund of the sum

attributable to the insurance.
The judge decided that the Abta notice displayed at the tour operator could not be construed as a contractual offer to all customers of failed Abta tour operators to protect them financially and disc the plaintiffs' claim.

Edward Bailey (Mason Bond, Leeds) for the plaintiffs; Catharine Otton-Goulder (Bignalls) for Abta. Lord Justice Hirst, dissenting and dismissing the appeal, said

that the notice was descriptive rather than contractual in Lord Justice Waite, allowing

of the vulnerability of agents and operators in a highly competitive market where failures

ity for public representations frequently said so. The most striking feature of the notice was its remarkable variety of tone and language. In the end the case depended on impression. The notice, notwithstanding the bewilder-ing miscellany it contained of information, promise, disclaimer and reassurance, would be understood by the ordinary

were not uncommon. The read-

er would know that those who

wished to disclaim legal liabil-

legal relations with customers of Abta members. Whenever a customer was induced to deal with one of its members by Abta's promises of protection, there was gain to the commercial purposes for which it was founded, providing clear consideration for

member of the public as importing an intention to create

Lord Justice Hobbouse said that the Abta protection scheme was a scheme in relation to its members but it was a scheme of protection of the customers of Abta members.

Abta was offering to protect the reader of the notice, the prospective customer. It was an inevitable inference that what Abta was saying was that it would do something for the customer if the member should fail financially.

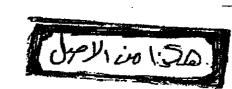
It was a scheme whereby Abta was going to step in if the member failed and deal directly with the customer. The member of the public reading the notice would understand that Abta was undertaking to use its best endeavours, free of further expense to the customer, to procure that the customer was able to enjoy the holiday booked, or to see that the trav-eller abroad was brought back here. It was clearly an undertaking with a financial content.

A member of the public would understand that the notice would only apply to him if he chose to do business with an Abta member. It satisfied the criteria of a unilateral contract and contained promises which were sufficiently clear to be capable of legal

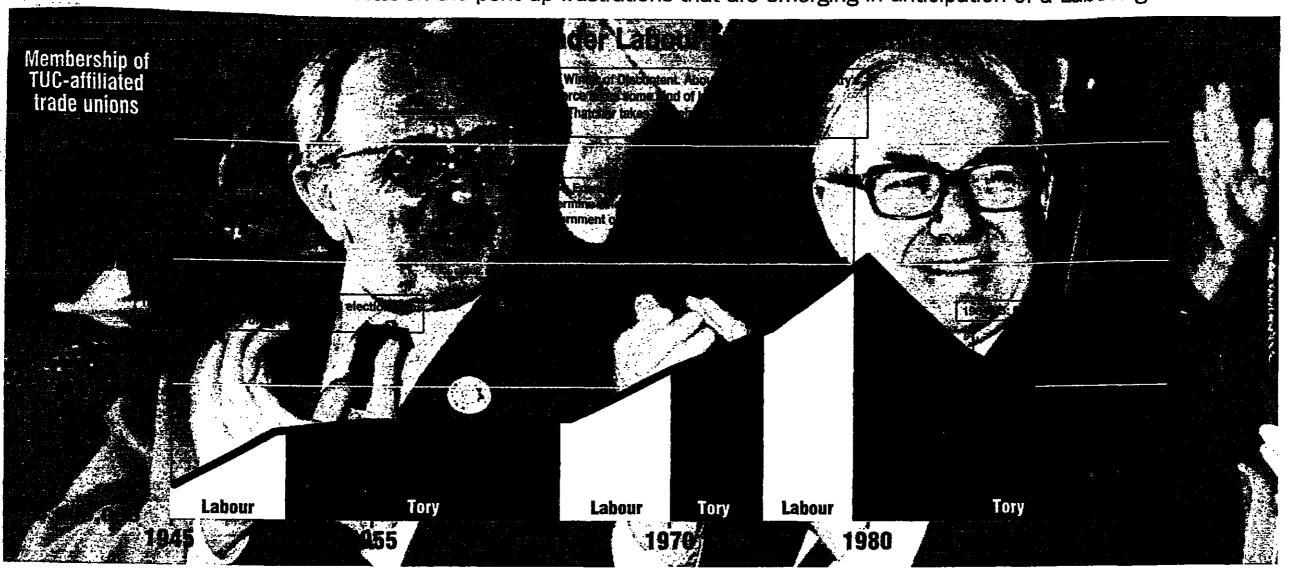
enforcement.

If Abta wished to say that it was not making any promises, nothing could have been simpler than for it to have said so in the notice. For obvious commercial reasons, Abta did not hoose that course.

Ying Hui Tan, Barrister



John Rentoul and Barrie Clement on the pent-up frustrations that are emerging in anticipation of a Labour government



Quietly, the unions flex their muscles

feels good when you stop. We haven't stopped yet, but it's beginning to feel better already." So says a trade union policymaker, sensing the advent of a Labour government in 18 months' time. Union membership has halved since the peak in the Seventies, but union leaders feel that they have survived Thatcherism and are - in private - more upbeat about the future than at any time since the 1978/79 Winter of Discontent.

We are not, of course, heading back to an age when union barons ruled at the court of 10 Downing Street. And there is little prospect of a sudden upsurge of union militancy - as the receding of the threat of strike action at Ford and Vauxhall proved yesterday. Union leaders do not doubt that it would be different next time. The leaders of the three largest unions, Rodney Bickerstaffe. John Edmonds and Bill Morris, do not expect - as the Scanlons, Basnetts and Joneses of the Seventies did - to be deciding a Labour government's economic policy. But they do feel that they are coming in from the cold. Beer and sandwiches at Downing Street would be be no going back on the main

It's like banging your head nice, but not necessary", according to one union leader. Behind the careful words about being "accepted as a legitimate part of British public life", one senses a tingling of anticipation at the thought of once again being powers in the land.

So what do union leaders along with less beneficent expect of a Labour govern-ment, and how would Prime

Union barons

are bruised by their exclusion from the Labour leadership's inner counsels

Minister Blair and Chancellor Brown treat them? There are several routes back to influence for the unions that do not lead directly through the door of Number 10. If there is a Labour government, there will be some apparently low-key but highly significant changes in the legal framework under which unions operate. Tony Blair has made absolutely clear that there will

Conservative union law reforms and few union leaders want him to. But there would be a new law requiring employers to recognise unions where the majority of the workforce want it. That means that companies such as Marks & Spencer organisations - would be forced to recognise a union. This means a great deal to the unions' ability to recruit and to

gain leverage.
In addition, workers have been promised the right not to be sacked for going on strike. This has been denounced by the Tories as a "striker's charter", although in practice it amounts only to the right to compensation for unfair dismissal. But both measures will tilt the balance of power in industrial relations modestly hack in favour of unions against employers.

More important, perhaps, would be Britain's signing up to the European Social Chapter. This would give unions a role in framing European legislation. The parental leave directive, for example, which will give new parents in other EU countries the right to 12 weeks' unpaid leave, was agreed by European employers and unions without

Blair's speech to the CBI earlier this month was curious in this respect. He insisted a Labour government would not accept each and every proposal from Brussels. But the point about opting into the Social Chapter is that it would remove Britain's veto over proposed Euro-law. It was an example of Blair

failing to "say what we mean and mean what we say". because to union and Labour Party audiences the unequivocal commitment to the Social Chapter is a big crowd-pleaser. TUC sources politely say they were "puzzled". But this is only the latest incident in the edgy relationship between the unions and the Labour leadership. Union barons are bruised and smarting from their exclusion from the Labour leadership's inner counsels since Blair became leader.

Bill Morris, of the oncemighty Transport and General Workers' Union, for example, has not forgiven Blair for the unidentified "aide" who described him as "confused, muddled and pusillanimous" on the question of Clause IV and public ownership - or for the challenge for his job from Jack Dromey, Blair's closest ally in directly involving governments. the union. Yesterday he told the about to take power. Which is

Independent: "I am looking foward to a constructive relationship with a Labour government in which we can work as partners in tackling the problems facing the British economy, in particular cutting unemployment and launching an assault on poverty."

This says nothing, of course, about the issues that could lead to conflict. Blair has already been warned privately by union leaders that his first problem might occur in the public sector and in particular from the 1.6 million workers in local government. Senior officials of the Unison

public service union recently sat down to a meal with the Labour leader to warn him about possible difficulties over pay. "They don't seem to have a policy towards public sector pay. I think they ought to start thinking about one," a Unison official said. The scene has already been

set. Local council unions will submit a claim next month that would add more than 3 per cent to the total pay bill. Assuming the claim is brushed aside, the same aspi-rations would emerge 12 months later at a time when a

why it is so significant that the council workers' claim will probably include an attempt to set a "minimum wage" for council workers. The claim could well mention a figure of £4.15 an hour, which was coincidentally - what the unions wanted Labour's national minimum wage to be. It would mean a rise of 12 per cent for the lowest-paid council workers, currently on £3.71 an hour.

The unions' claim links two issues on which a Labour government would face a tidal wave of high expectations - workers in the public sector will expect to "catch up" after 16 years of Tory austerity, and activists in the unions and in the Labour Party will expect Morris's dramatic "assault on poverty". The pressures on a Labour

government were illustrated by John Monks, the TUC leader, commenting on Gordon Brown's tax-cutting plans last weekend. "Our emphasis is rather different than Gordon's. Rather than tax cuts, the emphasis should be on increasing spending on the areas that need it most - the long-term unemployed, those who need homes and also the transport system," he said in a television Labour government could be interview. And Monks is an unrepentant moderniser.

Blair and Brown have consistently tried to lower expectations - in private meetings with union leaders as well as in public. But they have said little about how they would deal with upward pressures on wages. Apart from the weight of expectations in the public

A Blair-led government would face a tidal wave of high expectations

sector, the private sector will

see stronger unions, a mini-

lower unemployment. This raises the Issue That Dare Not Speak Its Name - an incomes policy. This is the lesson of the Australian experience, which is highly influential with Blair. The Australian Labor Party has now won five elections in a row, and one of the key elements of its successful economic management has been the Social Contract ers and unions.

The only move in this direction the Labour leadership have made is the plan to set up a Low Pay Commission, in which those same three parties will set the level of the minimum wage. Could this be the first institution of a New Corporate State?

We do not know, because only the free-thinking and outspoken Labour frontbencher Jeff Rooker has urged a debate about incomes policy. He pointed out that a minimum wage, by pushing up the earnings of the lowest paid, would put pressure on differentials further up the scale.

It is not at all clear how much either side has thought about these questions. Blair and Brown want to avoid any suggestion of a return to the discredited norms and contracts of the Seventies. And union leaders will not express their cautious optimism in public, because they know anything that looks like flexing muscles would hurt Labour's chances. But Blair cannot insulate a Labour government from the conflicts of the labour market, which means that his unwillingness to discuss the tensions ahead could spell trouble.

Diary

JOHN WALSH

The fevered speculation is over at last. I can reveal, exclusively, that the winner of this year's Bad Sex Prize - the Literary Review's annual award for the most allegedly risible piece of descriptive writing about sex - goes to my chum Philip Kerr, for a spectacular effort in the middle of his new novel, Gridiron, soon to be filmed by Working Title. How rude is it? Mr Kerr, formerly an enthusiastic ladies' man, now happily married, kindly reads me the offending passage. After some foreplay involving a lady's knickers (described as "a little Stealth bomber of black silk", which I think is awfully good), Kerr continues: Quickly he threw off his own clothes and rolled on top of her. Detaching mind from over-eager gnomon and its exquisitely appointed shadowy task, he began

What could anyone object to about that? "I think it's the word gnomon," says Kerr suspiciously. "It means the bit that sticks up from a sundial and casts a shadow. Perhaps Bron [Waugh] and Co object to someone using words they



The sun has got his gnomon



Hughes: Downing Street complaint



The evening after the Princess of Wales's spectacular (if over-rehearsed)

confession. I found myself in Downing Street. Not, you'll be surprised to learn, briefing the Cabinet on the constitutional position vis-a-vis the

royal succession, but at No 11, at a

party for the Arvon Foundation, of

of numerous starry mates. Lords

which the Chancellor's wife is just one

Jenkins and Gowrie, Jung Chang and

Doris Lessing, Maurice Saatchi and Josephine Hart processed up the Exchequer-minder's staircase under

the stern gaze of Pitt, Palmerston,

of universities on the creative

teaching the craft of writing.

down in Totleigh Barton, a Hardyesque bothy in the middle of

Disraeli and Stanley Baldwin, arrayed on the pink silk wallpaper. Ted Hughes

complained about the deadening effect

temperament and Patricia Hodge read

a poem. It was, of course, a moneyraising venture; they're looking for

film to subsidise courses for teachers,

to invigorate them with a passion for

I myself had a modest success in

tutored a throng of 16 mutinous

students in "Creative Journalism"

hayseed Devon, where you were

thought lucky if you had the Second

Pigsty to sleep in and the students

took turns in cooking cataclysmic

lentil dishes for all to share. At the

Arvon circles a few years ago, when I

lodging and creative peace and quiet. Now it's £260, a farcically small price for such a treat. My only regret is that they don't do Creative Journalism any more. Sounds a bit too close to "Lies", I suppose.

time, it cost £100 for five days' board,

What do you call a gathering of cartoonists? A strip? A punch line? A friend spotted a convention of gagsters on the Eurostar as it thundered home from Paris on Monday afternoon. Arrayed on the table before the artists were several rapidly emptying bottles of French Trappist beer, a uniquely sticky brew that plays hell with your clothes. As the train thundered across the absinthe-flavoured meadows, the genial band drank and joked and everything was right with the world. Then they hit the tunnel and a minute later, without warning or ceremony, the train screeched to an emergency halt. Lights flickered out, bottles flew and a tidal wave of Trappist beer landed all over Nick Newman (Sunda) Times, Private Eye). When the lights came on again he was a sodden mess, wailing "I'm completely drenched!"
The neurotic French tourists and

stoic Brits in the carriage laughed nervously. (Why had the bloody thing stopped?) That was when David Anstin (Guardian, Private Eye) decided to capitalise on the lightness of atmosphere. "Not half as drenched as you're about to be," he bantered, indicating the ceiling, above which lurked 150 feet of seawater. A score of heads swivelled upwards

Hearts missed beats. Pulse rates soared. Embolisms raced hither and thither. The carriage fell as silent as Davy Jones's Locker. Marvellous chap for cheering you up, the professional humorist.

Call for Miss Marple! Agatha Christie's homely solver of provincial whodunnits would, I've always thought, have had a fine time in Hampstead, where white-collar crime and poison-pen letters are a familiar part of the diurnal round. But what would she make of the news that Fay Weldon, the superstar novelist, was burgled the other day? And that the

only thing the miscreants seemed to take was a file containing all her correspondence with her former agent, Giles Gordon, discussing contractual arrangements for books recent and forthcoming?

"We updated the filing system only recently, so there's no question about t." says Ms Weldon, who called in the police. "It's very peculiar". Mr Gordon, who until recently represented such classy scribes as Peter Ackroyd, Sue Townsend and the Prince of Wales but has now moved up to Scotland, was not around to comment on his new status as soughtafter letter-writer. Can it be possible that Ms Weldon's records of her agent's endeavours on her behalf have touched the heart of a devoted, if misguided, reader, and that he has decided to purioin these worthless documents for his own (and posterity's) use? It's the only explanation I can think of.

"We didn't set out to discredit the Duke of Windsor," explained the producer of Edward VIII: The Traitor King on Greater London Radio yesterday morning. "Why would we want to do a thing like that?" A hard question to answer, although the words "Because it would make a good

telly programme" occur to me.
What, though, did it remind me of?
Ah yes, the Princess of Wales, when answering the biggest question of all on Monday. "Once or twice I've heard people say to me, you know, 'Diana's out to destroy the monarchy', which has bewildered me, because why would I want to destroy something that is my children's future?" Another good question, to which there are at

And that, in turn, reminded me of someone else: Michael Jackson, who, when interviewed by Oprah Winfrey two years ago, answered every difficult question the same way. "Did I buy the bones of the Elephant Man? No! Why would I want to do that?" "Do I sleep in a coffin? Naow! Why would I ...?

least a dozen incendiary replies.

You get the idea. The rhetorical question - a sure sign that its user is hiding something - is well and truly



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The lessons of **Cromwell Street**

For most of that time his wife. Rosemary, aided and abetted him. Most of us cannot come to terms with how terrible the last minutes of Rosemary West's 10 victims must have been, how appalling is the suf-fering of their families. So the personalities and tragedies - even the names - of these victims will recede from public consciousness, to be replaced by the legend.

But in the here and now, there are some serious questions to be asked. How could so many murders have taken place over such a long period of time without anyone blowing the whistle? How is it possible that the police and social services could have seen Frederick West on, it is believed, no fewer than 60 separate occasions, without intervening more decisively?

Some will argue that these were different times. The attitudes that prevailed when most of the killings took place made the discovery of the terrible crimes of Midland Road and Cromwell Street less likely. The extraordinary failure to prosecute the Wests for the rape of Caroline Owens in 1973 – and their subsequent £50 fine for sexual assault - was partially a product of the police fear of how rape cases were then dealt with. They felt that Ms Owens would be seen as somehow asking for it. An opportunity to take decisive action against the Wests was thereby squandered.

As the Bridge Case Consulting Service report into the deaths of Charmaine and Heather West makes clear, there were appalling failures of co-ordination and watchfulness by social services, police, schools and hospitals. Neither the police nor the courts informed social services about the Owens case. The schools were slow in noticing signs of abuse and desultory in following them up. The health service treated a 15-year-old girl for an ectopic pregnancy and gonorthoea, without informing social services. Meanwhile

Over a period of nearly 30 years Fred West was killing women and children.

NSPCC failed to act on the case of one of the West boys who had been hit with a mallet. Subsequently the file "went missing".

Since the period when most of the West murders took place, other cases have forced a change of attitude and policy on the authorities. The Maria Colwell case in 1973 led to a much more proactive approach on the part of social workers towards cases of child abuse; the Butler-Sloss report into the Cleveland cases in 1988 established the need for far better inter-service co-ordination. In all there have been more than 20 inquiries into the handling of child abuse cases in the past two decades. In addition the attitudes of the courts towards sexual assault and rape have hardened considerably since the early Seventies. Police and public have become sensitised to the issue of how children are treated, and far more aware of their own responsibilities.

These changes, however, do not mean that all is now well. Far from it. Each time a case has been investigated we have learnt something - especially when that investi-gation has been independent and public. So in the West case we now need just such an inquiry, which - unlike the Bridge report will cover the failure of the police force and be completely independent.

Of course we must remember just how unique the Wests were. Ill-educated and inarticulate they may have been, but when it came to spotting and exploiting vulnerability they were geniuses. The absconder from the children's home, the troubled foster-child, the lesbian teenager - all were grist to the Wests' mill. Operating their conscienceless double act, they were also adept at convincing those around them that what appeared abnormal was, in fact, perfectly normal.

But their uniqueness does not absolve us from the responsibility of discovering everything that we possibly can, in order to ensure that no one else dies simply because the body count rose. As late as 1989 the we failed to put two and two together.

From Di-vorce to Di-plomacy

less behind her, still gossiping, speculating and arguing about that interview. With - of course - impeccable timing, her discussion of the ambassadorial role she hopes to play in future set the scene nicely for her first solo international mission: a trip to Argentina.

We have come a long way from "Gotcha" - the Sun's headline on the day British troops sank the Argentine ship Belgrano. Thirteen years after Britain and Argentina went to war over the Falklands, relations between the two countries have gradually been restored through careful diplomacy. Prime Minister John Major and President Carlos Menem met in New York last month. And in September, the two countries signed a joint agreement on oil exploration in the Falkland waters

The oil agreement exemplifies the realpolitik both countries are now pursuing. Neither government has shifted its official position over the Falklands. Menem has, on several occasions, vowed to recover the islands for Argentina before the year 2000. Rows could have broken out as each country claimed sovereignty over the Falkland waters and the right to levy oil royalties. Instead, the two countries have made an agreement under which both can cash in without abandoning their principles. Britain will continue to hold the Falklands, but Argentina will

With a flash of those lashes, she was off. Dynamic Diana has flown to Buenos Aires, leaving the country breathmainland oil installations to make explormance. ation and extraction viable.

The long-term status of the Falklands remains in dispute. Even if military action by Argentina is no longer an option, Menem is bound to use every diplomatic trick available. He is playing a much longer game now to persuade and pressurise the British or the Falkland Islanders that sovereignty should change. The visit of the Princess of Wales will provide him with an opportunity to enhance his credibility in the eyes of the Argentines, Falklanders and British.

It is perfectly legitimate for the Argentine government to pursue its sovereignty claims through legal and diplomatic means But a member of the British Royal Family must not allow herself to be used and manipulated in the Argentine cause. Being a goodwill ambassador to a country with whom we were at war only 13 years ago requires diplomatic knowledge, skill, tact and political nous - as well as smiles and style

The visit will be a severe test for Diana's political skills. She has next to no experience of the subtleties of the diplomatic world. On the other hand, she has proved herself to be a consummate operator in her battle with the Royal Family. This could be our chance to find out whether the skills she uses so effectively to promote and position herself can be employed on behalf of her country.

ANOTHER VIEW Sir Patrick Cormack

Grand designs for Greenwich

The old order changes and buildings L cannot remain immune, however hallowed they may be. All over the country there are churches that have been declared redundant and converted into concert halls and libraries and even homes. But when a public building of national importance can no longer be used for its intended purpose there is a national responsibility, vested in the Government, to ensure that any new use is

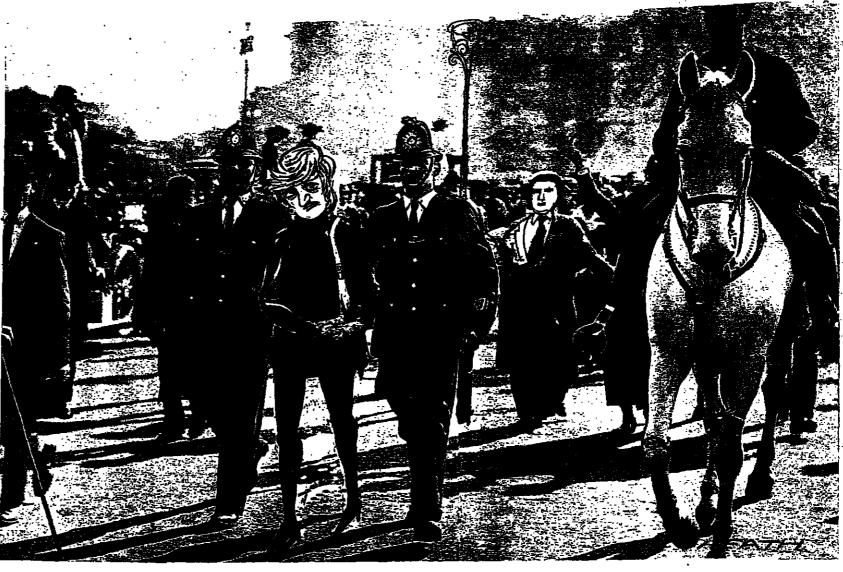
entirely seemly. This is a responsibility that has not been effectively discharged in the case of County Hall. As I look across from the House of Commons, I see one of the most notable buildings of the 20th century empty and forlorn. I would have kept it as the headquarters of a directly elected London local government, for all that I was no great enthusiast for many of the activities of the old Greater London Council. But when Margaret Thatcher's view prevailed, how many thought it would lie desolate for so many years awaiting its fate as a Japanese hotel - and aquarium? Further down the Thames there is a much greater building - indeed, a series of buildings forming one of the few World Heritage Sites in this country

- that of Greenwich. I never thought I would see the day, peace dividend or no, when a magisterial building designed by Christopher Wren, and where Nelson lay in state before his burial, would be advertised in the pages of a glossy magazine - albeit that it was Country Life and the description rightly made it sound like an extremely special riverside property. For government min-isters to be so bereft of ideas about its future as to resort to such a strategy saddened me considerably. I hope the cries of anguish and protest that have reverberated over the past couple of months will have convinced those with a responsibility for Greenwich that we cannot allow another County Hall situation here.

It is not change, as such, that I oppose. Greenwich was used as a palace and a hospital before it became a college, and there is no reason why it should not engender as much public pride in a new incarnation. Some have talked of another great art gallery, or an expanded maritime museum, and others of a campus for a university. What is crucial is that the Chapel and the Painted Hall and the rest of Wren's grand design should have a truly national purpose and that the building should be a living one.

What about a public service college? That would be a splendid millennium project. Maybe we could even have classes for Members of Parliament!

The writer is Conservative MP for Stafford-



Intruder being led away from Buckingham Palace

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

The right price to pay to visit the V&A

From Lord Armstrong of **Ilminster**

Sir: There is clearly some confusion about where the V&A stands on admission charges, following your report of 16 November ("V&A director wants £10 admission fee").

That report quoted, out of context, remarks made by Dr Alan Borg, the director of the V&A, in an interview for the Antique Collector given last July. In that interview he made clear his preference for either free entry or admission charges rather than voluntary donations, and expressed the view that many visitors could afford to pay £10 for entry to the V&A. But he also made it clear that, if the Board of Trustees was to decide to introduce admission charges, he would not recommend a charge

of £10. It would be for the Board of Trustees, when reviewing the V&A's financial situation and prospects, to take a decision as to whether to introduce admission charges at the V&A and, if so, at what level. It has no present plans to introduce admission

charges. Yours faithfully, ARMSTRONG OF ILMINSTER Chairman, Board of Trustees Victoria & Albert Museum London, SW7 21 November

From Mr David Harris Sir: The director of the Victoria & Albert Museum, Dr Alan Borg, informs us that "affordability" is not an issue in deciding whether, and at what level, to introduce

Windsors with

winning ways

Sir: For once. I believe, you have

got it wrong in your leader today ("The Windsors cannot win", 21

November). Around here, at

least, there is pity for the ex-

Sloane Ranger with a persecu-

tion mania and we are glad that

she has found a role visiting the

sick and fund-raising. But to

suggest she is more in touch

with, and has more support

from, ordinary people than the Queen, or the Queen Mother, or

the Prince of Wales with his fans

among the inner-city young he

meets through the Prince's Trust,

or Princess Anne with the Save

the Children, suggests to us that

you are out of touch.

DONALD CAPE

Guildford,

21 November

Yours.

From Mr Donald Cape

compulsory charges for admission 'V&A director attacks 'silly donations", 17 November).

This extraordinary remark does not bode well for the future of the V&A. I am afraid I must inform Dr Borg that affordability is a judgement that most of us ordinary mortals on ordinary incomes have to make every day of our lives, let alone when deciding whether we can afford to visit the V&A

A further pronouncement by Dr Borg, in the Antique Collector, to the effect that a majority of visitors to the V&A could afford a £10! It will certainly be out of the £10 entrance fee reveals an ignorance almost amounting to contempt for what average earners can afford.

Over the past few years, the V&A has attracted a loyal and growing constituency of regular Dagenham, Essex visitors, due in no small measure to the attraction of a voluntary payment system. Dr Borg has dismissed the system as "silly" and "uncomfortable" for visitors. From my personal experience, quite the opposite is the case. Affordable entry leads to satisfied customers and consistent cash flows that Dr Borg will ignore at his peril. Yours faithfully, DAVID HARRIS

London, W14

From Mr W. J. Rosengrave Sir: I am almost 80 years old now. When I was a young boy, I lived in Bow, in the East End of London. On some Saturdays, or during the school holidays, I could sometimes coax 2d or 3d from my mother and with it take a return ticket on the train from Bow to

From Mr Alastair Meeks

is still in force) provides that:

If a man do violate the King's

companion, or the King's eldest

daughter unmarried or the wife

[of] the King's eldest son and heir

... it is to be judged understood, that in the cases above rehearsed,

that ought to be judged treason.

Fenchurch Street and, with a From Miss Magdalene Andrews friend, discover London, using our feet. Sometimes we even got as far as South Kensington, and that invariably meant a visit to the museums to which, in those days, entry was free. It was our heritage

and our trip into another world. I hate to think that nowadays children are denied these pleasures unless they pay, and mum and dad taking their couple of kids must make a bit of a hole in dad's pocket. Now it is being suggested that perhaps the entrance fee for the V&A may be even as much as scope of poorer families to find that sort of money. Doesn't anything belong to the people any

Yours faithfully, W. J. ROSENGRAVE

From Mr Ivor Lightman Sir: The answer to the wish of Peter Forster (letter, 18 November) to be able to make frequent but short visits to museums in the face of high admission charges is surely quite simple - that is, a season ticket. I have one for the National Museum of Wales in Cardiff and its outstations throughout the principality. As a result, I am able to pop in to any one of them for half an hour on any day as the spirit moves me and am now able to spend more time on the pottery, the archaeology department and so on than when a visit had to be an "occasion". Yours faithfully, IVOR LIGHTMAN

Lisvane, South Glamorgan 21 November

Drugs and crime

Sir: The Treason Act 1351 (which From Mr John Alderson Sir. I am grateful to the press secretary of the Ministry of Defence (letter, 20 November) for pointing out that in his recent speech to the leaders of the armed forces, Michael Portillo did not refer to "inner-city crime" specifically, for I would Niall Ferguson wrote on 20 November ("Off with her talking not wish to misrepresent him. I would only like to point out head!") that in the old days Diana would face execution for her conthat, in the policeman's world, drug trafficking and inner-city crime are inexorably linked, and

involvement in one is likely to

Devon and Cornwall, 1973-82.

lead to involvement in the other. as the Army would know from its experience in Northern Ireland. From Mr Alex Henney Sir: Surely we have had enough Yours faithfully, of Ms Windsor and her relative JOHN ALDERSÓN Time was when the Independent Ottery St Mary, eschewed the regal soap opera -Devon 21 November The writer was Chief Constable of

please return to your former policy. Yours for a republic, London, No

duct. Why not today?

Yours faithfully,

ALASTAIR MEEKS

London, SE13

Broth? It's not so simple ...

From Mrs Margaret Thompson Sir: Christine Smith is right to point out the virtues of broth to people on benefit (letter, 16 November). However, as well as basic ingredients, there are other requirements: for instance, the know-how to make it, now that cookery is not taught in schools; access to a safe means of prolonged cooking, which is not available in bed and breakfast hostels; and the ability to discriminate between seductive food advertising and dietary advice.

A huge change in dietary knowledge and habits has occur-

red, both in and out of the kitchen. The rise of pre-packed and prepared foods, emphasis on ease of preparation, and the death of small shops such as

egy, taking all these influences into account and sympathetic to the practical needs and culture of young mothers, would be of benefit to them and their children. Despite my efforts, my own small children have very definite food preferences that do not include broth! Yours sincerely MARGARET THOMPSON

Chessington, 17 November

Monstrous slur From Ms Julie Burchill Sir: I have never smoked a cigar

in my life, let alone been asked to become a founder member of the Havana Club (David Lister's butchers have all contributed. Diary, 21 November). Neither do I wear a monocle, drink from pint Perhaps a coherent food stratglasses or harass waitresses. Not all lesbians do, you know. Sexist and stereotypical slurs on my sexual persona I can take.

But if you once more suggest that I would enter a room, let alone ioin a club, which houses those twin monstrosities Michael Caine and Bryan Adams, I will sue you severely. Yours.

JULIE BURCHILL Brighton, Sussex 21 November

Ecstasy and Prozac: the facts that "Prozac is the recreational

Sir: As a young person of 17, I feel I must reply to Nanette Bramwell (letter, 15 November) who states that it is not parents who need to be informed about drugs, but teenagers such as myself. She writes that the emotive appeal of Mr and Mrs Betts was lost on us because we do not, as a group, watch the news. But everybody I talked to in school had heard of their daughter Leah's tragedy and knew why it had happened. This kind of thing does not deter young people from taking drugs. They see, and rightly so, 50 deaths in five years. when millions take Ecstasy every week. It is less dangerous than crossing the road.

these drugs than the older gen-eration could teach us. What parents do not realise is the attempts in the US to blame extent to which drugs are taken. Prozac for people's aggressive A teacher at my school (he was also a parent) gave an assembly on how, at university, people may offer us "strange substances". He obviously did not realise that at least half the people he was addressing were habit-ual drug users and had been since they were 16.

We know all the names of different drugs, what they do, which ones you should not mix alcohol with, how much they cost and who to get them from, even if you don't take advantage of the information. Parents and other adults can have no authority over some-thing they know nothing about. Yours sincerely, MAGDALENE ANDREWS

London, W7 19 November

From Professor Hugh Freeman Sir: In his letter yesterday (21 November), Robin Prior claims

Yours faithfully, HUGH FREEMAN Emeritus Editor London, W1

Not in our league

From Mrs Caroline Beamish Sir: I scan the school league tables, published today (21 November), with scepticism and irritation. I work as a teacher in the London borough of South-wark, albeit in the College of Further Education. I also run English classes for recently arrived refugees and asylum-seekers, aged 14-16, from Southwark sec-ondary schools.

The independent schools in the borough that achieve the top places in the league tables are under no obligation to educate these pupils, nor, as selective schools, do they have any obligation towards pupils with any kinds of special needs. The state schools take in all of them, and in Southwark they constitute quite a high proportion of all schoolchildren.

How can the performance and outcomes of the two types of school be compared? Yours sincerely, CAROLINE BEAMISH London, SW9

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor. The adent, One Canada Square Canary Wharf, London E145DL and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056: e-mail:letters@independent.co.uk Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters. Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, 0800 90660.

psychiatric disorders, but only after an interval of about two weeks. Anyone who took it for recreational purposes would only experience some mildly unpleasant side-effects. Peter Breggin is quoted by Mr

drug of choice for many peo-ple". There is not a shred of evi-

dence for this statement and if

anyone did take it for that rea-

son, they would be greatly dis-

appointed. Prozac is an anti-depressant which is effective in

people suffering from major

depression and certain other

Prior as alleging that the scientific testing of Prozae lasted only five or six weeks. In fact, the development of this drug for clinical My peers know more about use was among the most lengthy and scrupulous of any.

There have been many Prozac for people's aggressive behaviour, but not one of these allegations has been accepted by a court. Similarly, overall analysis of thousands of cases has revealed no evidence that Prozac has been responsible for "a number of suicides".

Any drug will produce unusual effects in a very small minority of people; Prozac is no different in this respect, but is generally efficacious and well tolerated. The comparison of Prozac with Ecstasy is misleading and irresponsible, since the community contains large numbers of depressed people who have not received appropriate treatment, but could very well benefit from it.

British Journal of Psychiatry 21 November

Holy vegetables!

From Mr Jack Hale Sir: God may have been an enthusiast for animal rights in the beginning, as Sister Millicent Olga suggests (Letters, 21 November), but He seems to have changed His mind fairly quickly. He is reported (Genesis 9, 3) to have told Noah that he could eat meat. Possibly He cousidered fruit and veg good enough for Adam, a gardener. but not substantial enough for Noah, a rough, tough sailor. Yours faithfully, JACK HALE

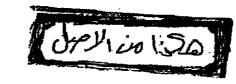
Gateshead. Tyne & Wear 22 November

From Mr Bob Frost Sir: While God may, indeed, be a vegetarian in the early part of Genesis, it would appear to be merely a phase, as with so many other youngsters, that He was going through.

By Chapter 15. He is encouraging Abram to cut various animals in half, and by the time we get to Chapter 22. He has convinced Abram that he should tie up his son and place him on an

alter for sacrifice.
Cenainly if such behaviour was repeated today, one would look to prosecution of Abram by the RSPCA, both God and Abraham to be investigated for possible ritual abuse, and Isaac to be taken into care and to receive counselling after his horrific experience. Yours sincerely,

BOB FROST



comment

Small Budget here, great debate elsewhere

Clarke's plans do matter, of course, but what happens in America and East Asia will affect us far more

T t is nearly Budget time. If you were cuts or would they prefer lower interto believe the standard rhetoric of British politics it is also crutch time for this government: Kenneth Clarke has this one shot - only one because as economics affect voting patterns, be they cannot be sure they will make it to next November - to win the election. In the "new Labour" tion. He needs to make, so the conventional wisdom runs, the appropriate judgement between the overall tax take and the Government's spending; he needs to deploy any tax cuts that he might be able to scratch together to best political advantage and cut spending to least political dis-advantage; and he needs to frame a Budget which is favourably greeted by the financial markets, for that way he can also engineer an early cut in inter-

est rates. There is nothing wrong with this sort of analysis. Indeed, in the shortterm it is the sensible way to see the exercise: as a series of political judgements, with the person making them having to balance conflicting objectives. The most obvious such balance is between taxation and public spending. But there is also the balance between different types of taxation (whom do you hit? whom do you help?) and between different types of public spending (in particular, cash benefits or public services?). And there is the less obvious balance between the level of public borrowing, the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and the likely profile of interest rates over the following year. The more the Government borrows the easier the tax/spending equation but, other things being equal, the higher the level of interest rates. Practical question: do voters want tax

est rates?

Well, we shall see the Tory perception of what voters want and, in so far able to see the Tory pitch for the next response to the Budget we will catch a glimpse of the alternative pitch, in particular how different this might be from the old Labour perception of the role of a government.

But this is all a bit unsatisfying, is it not? The differences are quite finely balanced: a few billions of extra spending and taxation: a bit more taken from one group of people and given to another - or maybe even given back to the same people in a different way; and a few billion more of borrowing and plus or minus half a percentage point on base rates.

It is unsatisfying because, as must be clear to anyone who travels about the world a bit or even reads the foreign pages of a newspaper, there are seismic changes taking place in the rest of the world which will affect our future prosperity far more than the odd penny off income tax. There is a grand debate taking place elsewhere about the very nature of government itself, against which our annual Budget is a side-show. What Mr Clarke does or does not do matters on an 18month view, of course, but on a 5- or 10-year time horizon the tax and spending plans of our government will be much more affected by two other big forces now evident elsewhere. For one we look to America; for the other to East Asia.

The issue in America is the balanced budget. We regard it as normal that the



overnment should have the right to borrow money; to spend money that it does not have in order, for example, to improve services ahead of an election, or simply to cut taxation. People huff and puff at this, and the financial markets exact a penalty in the form of higher interest rates on government debt. But nowhere is it seen as beyond the legitimate role of a government.

Nowhere yet. It is hard to judge at this stage quite how the great debate in the US on the budget will eventually unfold, but the fact remains that both parties there are committed to a balanced budget, and pressure from the Republicans was strong enough to force the US to the brink of default. The US in any case has a much smaller budget deficit (as a percentage of GDP) than any other large developed country and, looking ahead, has the further advantage of a population which is ageing more slowly too. This demographic point is important, for a deficit represents deferred taxation: a liability imposed by the present generation on its children. So quite aside from the practical issue of the need to finance a deficit, there is an ethical issue: what right does any one generation have to

pose obligations on a future one? This sort of moral argument is

for some kind of binding commitment to a balanced budget. If the markets don't force the issue, so to speak, the moralists will.

The import of all this is obvious: if the US really does commit itself to a balanced budget the rest of the world will be driven to follow. A new standard for government behaviour will be established - or rather re-established, for 100 years ago it would be perfectly normal for governments to regard this as a tenet of wise financial management.

The second big idea comes from East Asia. Here the issue is not the right of governments to borrow, but rather the appropriate size of gov-

Until a few years ago rich countries tended to have a high proportion of GDP allocated by government and considerable regulation of their economic activities. The models varied from country to country: the US and Japan had 30-35 per cent of GDP passing through the state but coupled this with strict regulations; Western European nations had up to 50, maybe a touch more, of the GDP passing though the tax mechanism, though in some ways at least they had fewer regulations than the US or Japan. There were no examples of rich countries where the state played only a minimalist role

That has changed. New models are emerging in East Asia. For example, in Hong Kong the state plays a small role in economic life. Yet Hong Kong is rich (on some measures richer than Britain) and growing with astonishing rapidity. The wealth

starting to be heard in the US, and is shows. People are well fed and well one of the big forces driving the case educated, health care is good, and while housing remains very cramped by European and particularly North American standards, the general lifestyle of most people is in other respects similar to that of the other rich parts of the world.

Or take Singapore. There the model is rather different, with a very high degree of regulation of both personal behaviour and in some respects economic life. But in other respects the government stays out of economic activity: taxation and public spending

As the East Asian region develops so that it rivals, and probably surpasses, North America and Europe in economic might, its values, its way of doing things, is bound to have greater global impact. One of the central dif-ferences is the balance of responsibility between on the one hand an indivictual and his or her family, and on the other the state. One measure of this is personal savings. As far as there is a common thread in East Asia, it is that it is a low-tax, high personal savings society. To say all this is not to assert that we have to adopt this pattern wholesale, for we do not. But expect to be influenced.

So, as the hubbub from our Budget fades next week, look for signs that politicians understand these great langes. Look for signals such as comment about the intergenerational impact of still-large deficits, or the need for greater personal savings. Some politicians know all this: Frank Field does; Chris Patten does; I suspect both John Major and Tony Blair do. Not too sure about Kenneth Clarke.

Letters (with a lot of flannel)

From Arthur Tremain

Sir. In all the fuss surrounding the re-emergence of Beatlemania, I am surprised no one has mentioned the fanatical interest that the late John Lennon had in cricket.

It is little realised that he was an obsessive Lancashire sup-porter, and hated to tour during the summer for fear of missing a Lancashire game or a Test match. During concerts, he would often watch videos of the latest Lancashire game on what fans thought were loudspeakers but were in fact TV monitor screens. If you watch videos of his later concerts, you can sometimes see him jump in the air at moments apparently unconnected with the music. Usually this was because someone had just been called out.

During his later years with Yoko Ono, who showed a sad lack of interest in the game, he would sneak off to play cricket with the Manhattan Minstrels, a New York team of expatriate cricketers drawn partly from British showbiz exiles and partly from West Indian immigrants. I remember standing beside him in the slips one day and watching him put down a difficult left-hand chance. "No one would have got that," I said, to comfort him, "except

maybe Paul McCartney.' "Why him?" said John.
"Well, he's left-handed."

"Yes, but Linda McCartner would have got in the way," said John. How we all laughed. However, the team abruptly

lost John Lennon's services when Yoko Ono persuaded him to play naked one day as a protest for peace. He was never picked again. Yours sincerely ...

From Mr Gary Bunyip Sir: In all the fuss about the anniversary of the Sun Page Three girls, I am surprised no one has mentioned the cricket team which these gallant girls ran for many years. United by a common love of the game and a generous subsidy from Mr Murdoch! - these fun-loving fillies often turned out of a Saturday to delight crowds all over the country with their skill as well as their stunning looks. Ignorant commentators have

often supposed this buxom

bunch played cricket topless, which shows a lamentable depth of ignorance and a degree of sexism on their part. In fact, these leggy lovelies preterrea to lay in French bermaids' outfits with short black skirts and lacy cleavage. Some of them were far from untalented. We had a fast bowler called Leslie Lindquist

who could work up a fair head of steam, even though she was amply endowed in the chest region with a bust of more than 40in (or should that be in milligrams these days?).

On one occasion an opposing batsman asked her if she did not find it difficult to get her arm over with such a bountiful -bosom. "Look, love," she snapped, "I don't ask if you have trouble walking or running, do 1?" How we all laughed!

From Major-General Sir Nor-

Sir: May I put in a word in support of my good friend Nicholas Soames MP? In all this Prince of Wales controversy he has come in for a good deal of flak. with many people unable to decide if he is genuinely paranoid or merely shamelessly trying to play for people's sympathy. Well, let me tell you, there is no one straighter and liner than Nicholas Soames, not least when it comes to cricket, in which game he is one of the stoutest fielders known to man

I remember when he was a

no pun intended!



Windsor Castle, the annual fixture between Old Equerries and the Prince of Wales's Valets Past and Present XL One of the equerries had to leave and Nicholas was pressed into being a substitute. "Blimey!" quipped one of the valets, as Nicholas strode on to the field. "They've sent on their 12th and 13th man!" How we all laughed. Yours sincerely ...

From Professor Norman Curew Sir. It would be a shame if Purcell's tercentenary were allowed to pass without some mention being made of the great composer's fondness for cricket.

I do not know if Purcell played cricket, but the musical world was stunned two years ago at the discovery of his cricketing cantata ("Blest Pair of Stumps") and a collection of cricketing rounds to be sung at sporting parties. Purcell had a weakness for writing rounds with rather risqué words, and these cricketing ditties are no exception! I surprised a Wigmore Hall audience recently when, as an encore at a choral concert, I produced 11 men in white flannels who sang:

There was a very county lover, Who quoth, "I need no extra cover When with my mistress I do lay And with her fine legs I do play ...

And so on through all the fielding positions. How we all laughed! Yours faithfully ...

Five years on, the spirit of Margaret Thatcher can be detected in the conformism of the Major era

The ghost in the Tory machine

Five years on and what of her spirit remains? On this day in 1990, Britain was waking up to read the text of Margaret Thatcher's resignation statement. The political world was digesting her extraordinary last performance in the Commons. Rival candidates were looking in the mirror and asking themselves in the cold morning light; am I man enough to succeed her?

Five years on, there is no monument to Baroness a "Europe of nations" rhetoric Thatcher. She herself lives on in London and in aeroplanes, an Thatcher in her Bruges speech. rumoured, not seen or heard. She doesn't speak freely to her



ANDREW MARR Columnist of the Year

nation, but privately and for cash to conclaves of rich Americans.

The woman who was once a political iconoclast, a radical force of world class, is reduced to the level of an exiled Stuart. restlessly travelling and remembering past glories. The mem-oirs and memorial television programmes have been made and sold. She gave up the Commons, barely functions in the House of Lords, has produced no works of polemic or political thought and gives hardly any interviews. Of other ex-prime ministers in modern times, Heath and Macmillan have had livelier retirements. But as a political player, Lady Thatcher herself, once the liveliest of all, is as dead, as long-gone, as Peel

or Gladstone. In one sense, this is admirable. The occasional outburst aside, she has left the field clear for her successor. In return, he has not repudiated her openly, as it once seemed that he might. When she went, some of the younger cabinet ministers rejoiced and compared themselves to the prisoners from Fidelio, marching into

was, to adapt Norman Lamont's phrase about the economy, a false dusk. On most of the key questions, the Major administration has turned out to be the post-Thatcher administration. She would have signed at Maastricht, too. In that odd little border town, with its Christmas lights and cobbles, she would have argued up to the line, then done the deal, as she always had. Since then, Major has adopted which is remarkably similar to

On the economy, it has bee the same story. Taxes and spending rose during the recession; as a pragmatist, Thatcher would have let them rise too. She would have been in the ERM, expelled, and similarly cross. She would have spoken in similar terms at the Mansion House, talking of reducing the state's share of spending. She would have fought inflation, though perhaps less fiercely

than John Major. The last-generation privatisation attempts, whether abortive like the Post Office or rumbling on like rail, might or might not have been too far for her. She was wary of privatising all those little Queen's heads. But they are the sort of thing a Thatcher administration in 1995 might have been up to. Would she have lived up to her hot, morally impeccable, out-ofoffice words on Bosnia had she still been in Downing Street? An intriguing question, but an unanswerable one.

Had she stayed, it is not impossible that she would have won again in 1992. Most Tories assume that she would have lost, clinging to the poll tax as she sank. Many of her former lieutenants disagree. She would have tempered her style. There would have been no Christian Democrat breakaway over Europe, no CDP adventure to match the SDP in the Eighties.

A Thatcher government now would have been different, above all, in its people. Norman Lamont as Chancellor? Michael

and stayed in office, she probably wouldn't have been Prime Minister by now. We would have had a smoother succession - to, well, John Major. Five years on, had the Cabinet rallied to her on that dark winter evening, we might well have been living

under a Major government car-rying out Thatcher policies. Which, of course, we are. There would have been more of a sense of forward movement. probably, and continuity, certainly, but the broad thrust of government policy would have 1990 is not that the party foolishly changed course, but that it failed to seize its opportunity to

For Thatcher radicalism was a strictly limited project. It was about hacking back some familiar rivals to Westminster and Downing Street - the trade unions, the federalist bureaucracy of the European Union, local government, and a few of the more irritating instances of the liberal establishment, such as the BBC. Financial deregulation and lower taxes were to unharness the energies of the middle classes and the South. The rest was inessential.

The release of national energy that she accomplished, at considerable cost, between 1979 and, say, 1988, was not repeatable. Her rhetoric about the small state was matched by extreme political caution about preserving public services, particularly for the middle classes. There was no second wave of Thatcherite revolution available, because the next obvious areas for reform included the political establishment itself. She had done for Britain all that a centralist, politically conservative free-marketeer could. Had she gone on, she would have become, increasingly, the Prime Minister for the status quo.

It may seem, in retrospect, too fantastic to imagine a post-Thatcher Tory party that was prepared to think hard about the quango state, about the need to rebuild some stable sysparties are generally for. Yet it would have taken such a Tory conversion for the party to have changed the country in the Nineties as dramatically as it had

Instead, we have been marking time as a country since she

I don't mean that nothing worthy of comment has hapnened. There have been useful bureaucratic reforms, holding operations, both at home and abroad, and difficult exercises in ment. There has been a noticeable slowing of the federalist

Had she gone on, she would have become the Prime Minister for the status quo

movement. Perhaps most significant of all, Labour, beaten yet again, has moved further to the centre and to pro-market positions than anyone would have dreamt possible a few years earlier. So things have changed

But none of it has given us a stronger sense of our own future, or made us more selfconfident and better prepared. We have grown older as a country, not younger. Because Mar-garet Thatcher was responsible for the last great era of change, it is easy to look back and think that her passing marked the passing of energy from politics.
I believe the opposite is true,

that the Conservatives as rulers and the rest of us as ruled have suffered from her late legacy of political centralism and her unimaginative conformism about power and the British state, After her early years, she became ever more the political establishment and ever less the rebel. Her spirit has been influential, but instead of pointing to new chal-







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INDEPENDENT • Thursday 23 November 1995

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IN BRIEF

DTI clears TSB takeover

Lloyds Bank's shares rose 21.5p to 871p after its agreed bid for TSB was cleared on competition grounds. TSB also gained 7p to 414.5p. While the proposed deal still needs clearance by other regulators such as the Bank of England, the President of the Board of Trade, Ian Lang, "has decided on the information at present before him, and in accordance with the recommendation of the Director General of Fair Trading, not to refer the ... merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission under the provisions of the Fair Trading Act 1973". Bifu, the banking union, fears 10,000 job cuts will result from the merger and condemned the DTI's decision.

Eggar warns of higher gas bills

Tim Eggar, the Industry Minister, warned that consumers may suffer through higher gas bills than would otherwise be the case because of British Gas's problems with costly North Sea contracts that force it to take more gas than it can sell. Mr Eggar also sharply criticised the company and offshore producers for failing to renegotiate the contracts, singling out US firms for the sharpest attack.

Guinness appeal decision on Monday

The decision on the Guinness appeal will be announced next Monday. Central to the appeal made by the four men who received jail sentences or fines for their part in operating an illegal share support scheme, during Guinness's £2.7bn takeover of Distillers in 1986, has been their assertion that the police were deliberately excluded from investigations to allow DTI inspectors with stronger inquisitorial powers to remain unimpeded. In 1990, Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness, property tycoon Gerald Ronson, and stockbroker Anthony Parnes all received jail sentences for their behind-the-scenes activities in the Guinness takeover. A fourth man, Jack Lyons, was fined Em and stripped of his knighthood.

1,300 jobs motor into N Ireland

More than 1,300 jobs are being created by French car components company Montupet, which has announced a £142m expansion of its factory in Northern Ireland, the largest investment in the province since the ceasefire.

US trade gap shrinks

America's trade gap shrank in September, thanks partly to the sixth reduction in a row in its deficit with Japan. The Commerce Department said the US deficit in trade in goods and services was on an improving trend. Even so, it is likely to be a record, approaching a mammoth \$200bn this year. The shortfall in September was \$8,35bn, down from a monthly average of \$10bn so far this year. The dollar strengthened a little.

Accounting shake-up planned

Companies will only be able to make provisions against profit in their accounts when they have an obligation rather than just an intention to make expenditure to cover reorganisation or environmental costs if proposals published by the Accounting Standards Board today. The board, which sees the plans as integral to its recent draft statement of principles, also calls for an end to provisions for future operating losses and more detailed disclosure of the amounts being provided.

Comment, page 25

Forte spurns Granada's £3.1bn opening shot in takeover battle

JOHN SHEPHERD and DAVID HELLIER

A vicious and acrimonious takeover battle was sparked last night as Granada's audacious £3.1bn hostile bid for Forte was given short shrift by the board, which said that it "totally fails to recognise the value of the company".

That view was echoed in the City, where analysts said the offer was only an opening shot.
"This is not a knock-out offer," said one leading leisure analyst. "The company is worth considerably more." Analysts said the chances of a counter offer to Granada's bid were remote.

The battle by two of the country's largest leisure companies promises to be drawn-out and acrimonious. At stake is control of Forte's 900 hotels - including Grosvenor House in London, the George V in Paris and the Ritz in Madrid – and its restaurants

and motorway service stations. Shares in Granada dropped 48p to 649p, while those in Forte rose to 347.5p yesterday, as the market weighed the details. The mixed shares and cash offer valued Forte at £3.4bn at the

> too late in making the remarks he made about the company." Mr Robinson said his company intended to sell off bits of the Forte empire if the bid succeeds. The 68 per cent, but restricted, voting stake in the luxury Savoy hotels group would be put up for sale. Also earmarked for disposal are the Lilywhites sporting wear retail operation and a few of Forte's 'trophy" hotels. It intends to rebrand the re-

maining hotels, concentrating on building the Meridien chain, which Forte bought last year. into its main international op-Sir Rocco Forte: 'company eration, probably by folding in

native of 321.7p a share.

and catering operations, selling

off £500m worth of assets and improving profit margins. "We've tracked this opportuni-

ty for several years." Mr Robinson said. "We believe we are

financially and managerially

ry] is two years too late in mak-

ing a bid. And he is two years

ready for it."



Bidding for glory: Granada executives Gerry Robinson (left) and Charles Allen

Photograph: Kevin Lamarque/Reuter

However, Sir Rocco Forte said he was "very confident" of beating off the bid. "He [Ger-Ultimately, Granada hopes to create two distinct hotel products at the higher and lower ends of the mid-market. Forte is the market leader in the fastexpanding budget hotel market through its Travelodge chain.

Also lined up for disposal are Forte's 22 motorway service sites, which Mr Robinson conceded would pose insurmountable competition hurdles. Granada operates 27 roadside service sites in the UK.

Granada has grown sharply in the past four years, with oper-ating profits rising from £88m in 1991 to £388m this year. In the same period, Forte has seen profits tread water, drifting from £289m in 1991 to £258m this year and has had to

Full-year results released yesterday by Granada showed that pre-tax profits climbed 32 per cent to £351.2m, on turnover up 14 per cent at £2.4bn. The dividend total was lifted from 10p to 11.75p per share.

Mr Robinson rejected sug-gestions that the bid had been pitched too low. The City always wants more," he said.
"That's par for the course.
We've put a good bid forward, and we will have to wait for three or four days to see whether we

have a convincing case." the offer might have to be raised to 400p a share, or nearly £3.9bn, to secure victory.

Mr Robinson also rejected criticism that there was no strategic fit between the two companies. "People like to make these businesses complicated, which they are not. Hotels, like catering and television and any other business, are about unit management," he said. "We have proved that we can manage well.

There were suggestions yes-terday that Granada did not necessarily have the management depth to run an international hotels company. One leisure analyst said: "This business requires not just an understanding of pricing and Analysts said yesterday that filling rooms but also a good understanding of the internation-

al market. A spokesman for Forte said: "The logic of a fit between us [Granada and Forte] does not

However, others accepted that Mr Robinson, along with his chief operating officer Charles Allen, had the relevant experience, citing the improving fortunes at both Sutcliffe, the catering business bought two years ago, and at Pavilion, the motorway services company

purchased in April. At its current level, the offer would be worth £250m to the Forte family, which owns just under 8 per cent of the company. The family has a shareholding of around 75 million shares - between 7 and 8 per cent in the company - which are owned directly by Sir Rocco Forte, his sister Olga Polizzi, and

Cost-cutting 'caterer' challenges ex-playboy

Granada's hostile bid for Forte pitches two sharply contrasting businessmen into battle. In the Granada corner is Gerry Robinson. He is 47. the ninth of a Donegal carpenter's 10 children, who was once described by the comedian John Cleese as

an "ignorant upstart caterer". In the Forte corner is Sir Rocco Forte, the smooth, polished scion of the Forte dynasty, who speaks like Prince Charles and dresses in the best Savile Row suits. Known as a former playboy, he once squired glamorous women such as Bianca Jagger, Now 50, he married the equally glamorous Aliai Ricci in 1986.

Their management styles are very different. Mr Robinson is a fervent believer in delegating and describes most work is a "waste of time". He works a strict nine-hour day and even

takes Fridays off. Sir Rocco regularly puts in a 12-hour stint in the office - in addition to business dinners.

"It's hard to be a playboy when you work as hard as I do," he said recently.

Mr Robinson has developed the reputation of a ruthless cost-cutter which has made him popular with City analysts. He frowns upon unnecessary expense and runs Granada from a unimpressive office block in London's Soho. The management structure is pruned to speed up decisions. Managers are given responsibility and made accountable.

By contrast. Forte has a more remote style of management. At the London head office Sir Rocco only recently moved his office down from the penthouse suite to the same floor as the rest of the board. Decisions are said to be slow and the directors of the two main divisions - hotels and restaurants - do not even sit on the main board.

The HQ has four lifts and it is said that when a Forte famimember is present one is served for their private use. In the City Sir Rocco has been criticised for combining the roles of chairman and chief executive and running the company like a private family concern. "It is not seen as a dynamic business," one observer said.

Socially the two are poles apart. While Mr Robinson is a quiet family man. Sir Rocco's is a member of the upper crust social whirl. When he was knighted, congratulations poured in from royalty, Baroness Thatcher and half the current cabinet. Even his chauffeur has an MBE.

The background of both is fairly humble. Mr Robinson's family left Ireland when he was 11 and he initially studied to be a priest. But he left the seminary at 16 for a career in industry. In 1987 he led the management buy-out of Grand Metropolitan's catering division to form Compass. He was appointed head of Granada in 1991 when John Cleese made his "upstart caterer" remark.

Sir Rocco had a swifter ascent. After leaving Oxford he joined Trusthouse Forte in 1970, becoming deputy chief executive eight years later.

Temperance trust could hold key

bid could be influenced by a small number of shares controlled by the Council of Forte. a trust set up in 1904 to "further temperance", and inherited by the Forte company when it merged with Trust Houses in 1970 to form Trusthouse Forte.

The trust owns only 780,000 shares, less than 0.1 per cent of the total 943 million Forte shares in issue, but has the right to the same number of votes as all the other shareholders put together.

However, it is by no means certain that the Panel for Takeovers and Mergers will allow the council to use its 50 per cent share of the votes in the

takeover fight. Granada is relying on the panel taking the same stance as it did in 1971 when the council's right to vote was neutralised during the failed bid by Allied Breweries for Forte. Judith Shepherd, a member of the panel executive, said yesterday that no decision had been reached yet. "We need to hear the views

of Forte and the council." The delicate power issue will, no doubt, be debated at length



Controlling interest: Trust members (clockwise from top left) Lord Boyd-Carpenter; the Duke of Marlborough; Lord Callaghan; Hugh Astor; Sir Paul Wright and Lord Peyton

ed by Hugh Astor, and is comprised of three lords, an earl, a duke and two knights of the

realm. If the council's vote is again declared null and void under Rule 10 of the Takeover Code, Granada's strategy will boil down to gaining control of more than 50 per cent of the shares held by other investors. In effect, ordinary shareholders would have a full vote per share rather than half a vote.

The council is free to declare

by the council, which is head- itself neutral ahead of any binding decision by the panel. One of the issues the council will have to take account of is the basic requirement for trustees to look after the best interests

of the trust's beneficiaries. The aim of the trust is to distribute income for charitable purposes. However, the amount of available, distributable dividend income from shares in Forte has dwindled in recent years and will be another main point to be considered when the council debates the bid.

Reed's newspaper arm sold for £205m

MATHEW HORSMAN

The US buyout specialists Kohlberg Kravis Roberts and Co have bought the regional newspaper division of Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing giant, for £205m.

The announcement capped two weeks of frantic negotiations involving as many as five bidders, and brought to £685m, after tax, the amount Reed has raised from selling-off the bulk of its consumer businesses.

KKR is expected to find buyers for some of the group's newspapers, and will be working with the current management, led by Reed Regional's chief executive, Jim Brown. Clifton Robbins, a KKR ex-

ecutive, who has spent the past 10 days negotiating the deal, said yesterday that current management would get a meaningful chunk of equity. "The regional papers are doing quite well, and last year made record profits. Management is very bullish about the situation."

had operating profits of £18m on turnover of £142m, KKR will pay £140m in cash, and issue an interest-bearing note for £65m, repayable by January 1997.

Pru Ventures, the venture capital arm of Prudential insurance, had been considered a frontrunner, but ruled itself out when the sellers decided to hold a "contract race", offering a deal to the first bidder able to complete negotations.

The company also announced three transactions in the Netherlands and one in the US, and said that the divestment process, aimed at raising up to £1bn, "was nearly complete". Dagbladunie, the group's Dutch newspaper publishers, will be sold to PCM Uitgevers NV for £346m, while two smaller Dutch deals, along with last week's sale of the US consumer magazines to the media affiliate of KKR,

will raise an additional £189m. The sell-off, is aimed at repositioning the company as a publisher principally of business information. However, Reed Elsevier is keeping its PIC con-Last year, Reed Regional sumer magazine division.

Speculation boosts C&W

DAVID HELLIER

Almost £800m was added to the value of Cable & Wireless yesterday as the shares jumped 37p to 466p on takeover speculation. At yesterday's closing price, the company is valued at slightly more than £10bn.

The speculation came in spite of a denial by Craig McCaw, the American billionaire, that he was gearing up to mount a bid. The City linked Mr McCaw with C&W before Tuesday's late news of the shock departure of both the company's chairman, Lord Young, and James Ross,

chief executive. Their departures followed two days of talks that failed to resolve the bitter power struggle between the two men. Yesterday, traders took the view that the resignations left the

company vulnerable to a bid. "The speculation is entirely predictable," Laurence Heyworth, telecoms analyst at Flemings, said, "However the

predictable than the actual

Analysts said that if the company wished to remain independent it would need to appoint a chief executive quickwho would provide a more defined strategy and thereby prevent a break-up.

On Tuesday, the group appointed Brian Smith non-exec-utive chairman and said that a board committee under his chairmanship would be formed to select a new chief executive "as soon as possible".
"The Cable & Wireless board

does not want the company to chief executive to see the good points of the so-called 'federation' and possibly express it a bit better," John Clarke, of Daiwa Institute, said.

Analysts said the departures of Lord Young and James Ross yesterday were welcomed by the market but that Cable & Wireless remained vulnerable and open to a possible bid or a

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'Rocco may or may not be up to the fight but the old man.

Charlie, is still alive and he is not going to see his life's work

disappear without serious bloodshed

Robinson may bite off more than he can chew On the face of it, what we are about to witness with Granada's £3.1bn bid for Forte is a fight so unequal that it seems al-Forte is a fight so unequal that it seems almost cruel. In the right hand corner is Gerry Robinson, an Irishman whose truculent

laid back manner disguises an executive style as demanding as they come and a track record that amounts to one of the finest in British corporate life today. In the left hand corner is Sir Rocco Forte, second generation former playboy, there only because he is his father's son, and a track record, if Granada's devastating attack is to be believed, that is little short of disastrous. When the bid hit first thing yesterday morning, he was out

pheasant shooting. Poor Rocco.

Not everything is always as it seems, however, and as the City recovered from the excitement of the first punch, doubts began to creep in. Is this not mere empire building by Granada? A conglomerate that already combines broadcast TV with equipment rental and motorway service stations might seem illogical enough as it is, without making it more confusing still by loading on Forte's property assets. Certainly there is a suspicion in the City that Mr Robinson may be biting off more than he can chew. Furthermore, say Rocco's supporters, paid and otherwise, he is indeed his father's son and will surprise us all with a street fighter's defence. Forte has famously fought off hostile boarders before and will do so again. In the spirit of backing one side or the

other, however, here is the case in favour of

City over strategy mainly results from the confusion at the heart of Forte itself, which likes to project itself as a top-of-the-range hotels group. Think Forte and you think the George V in Paris, the Cipriani in Venice and nowadays even the Savoy. In truth these businesses are about as relevant to Forte's core earners of roadside catering and mid market provincial hotels as a ten bob note, requiring almost totally different marketing and management skills.

Dispose of those bits and pieces, however, and you end up with a business which is highly relevant to Granada. Mr Robinson has been tracking Forte for three years or more and believes the fit as neat as that of hand and glove. The timing of this bid might be open to question, occurring apparently at the wrong point in the cycle with Forte recovering strongly. Even so, the opportunity for improvement still looks considerable. These are businesses the City has long suspected were badly run and controlled.

Gearing of 130 per cent, even after the planned disposals, seems high, but it is pursued as deliberate policy, for these are cash generative businesses being bid for. Mr Robinson has achieved the trick before of gearing up the company to unwind it later and deliver the value through to shareholders. Furthermore, the gearing sinks substantially when account is taken of

whether conglomerates such as Granada make a great deal of corporate sense. Certainly the media interests, if this takeover goes through, will begin to look distinctly out of place. Demerger and breakup, however, is a long way in the future. Forte is just the sort of business Mr Robinson ought to be able to work miracles with. Even so, a bitter fight can be confidently predicted. Rocco may or may not be up to the fight but the

old man, Charlie, is still alive and he is not

going to see his life's work disappear with-

A difficult fit for Labour's new clothes

out serious bloodshed.

For much of this year, new Labour has been trying on the clothes of fiscal and monetary orthodoxy. The fit always looked tight, but now the corset appears to have burst as Gordon Brown tries to outdo Kenneth Clarke in the tax-cutting stakes.

The Shadow Chancellor didn't have much difficulty in exposing the Conservatives' sorry record in yesterday's debate on the economy. As he pointed out, even if Mr Clarke were to bring down income tax by 4p in the pound – costing some £7bn – that would still leave him a long way off the 7p in the pound by th in the pound by which taxes have been raised

run at about £30bn this year. Whatever tax rabbits Kenneth Clarke pulls out of the red box, he will have to justify them with spending cuts. And whatever he claims about slashing expenditure, the City will be scep-

tical - and rightly so. . The new Tory mantra intoned by Mr Clarke is that they alone can bring down public spending to below 40 per cent of GDP. What ministers omit to tell the public is that although now in their 17th year of office, they have only succeeded in that objective in just two years - and those were at the eight of the giddily unsustainable boom of the late 1980s. How much easier to redefine public expenditure - as the Treasury did in June – with the effect of bring down spend-ing as a proportion of GDP by almost a full

percentage point.

But if the Conservatives' difficulty in grappling with the hydra of public spending arouses legitimate scepticism, so too does New Labour's new penchent for crossdressing in tax-cutting clothes. Gordon Brown had plenty to say earlier in the week about his desire to cut the starting rate of tax to 15 or even 10 per cent. He had nothing to say about the cost of doing so - a handy £7on - and how that money would become available.

One danger for investors in this competition to cut taxes is that Labour will come

its the fiscal imprudence of an ultimately political budget. If nothing else, the fashion parade of political supermodels dressing in little other than tax-cutting pledges highlights the looming political uncertainties that seem set to overshadow markets in the

Expect the 'smoothies' to come out fighting

Accounting Standards Board chairman Sir David Tweedie has repeatedly made clear that if he stands for anything it is transparency in accounts. Few ASB proposals better fit in with that idea than loday's attack on the "big bath", or lumping together of anticipated costs, and other techniques much loved by the likes of British Gas and Grand-

The plan is to allow companies to provide against profits only whenthey are committed to expenditure on reorganisation or to meet environmental liabilities rather than, as now, once the board has formed the intention. This looks logical enough. However, it represents such a radical change that Sir David fully expects the smoothers - or proponents of managing earnings by giving com-panies scope to manipulate the amounts and timing of provisions - to come out fighting.

Power flotation: Prospectus shows controversial payments to four grid directors to be supplemented by extra £91,000

£408,000 dividend bonanza for National Grid directors

PETER RODGERS **Business Editor**

Executive directors of National Grid will receive a total of three extra dividends worth £408,000, it emerged yesterday in the prospectus for the flotation next month.

On top of a controversial special dividend of more than £300,000 that the Government tried unsuccessfully to persuade them to give up, four directors will receive a further £91,000.

These payments come from a £63,000 dividend on a bonus share issue and £28,000 dividend as part of a rights issue, and are in addition to normal dividends of £26,000 on shares that they

hold in the grid company.

The four directors, led by chairman David Jefferies, are sitting on shares worth £1.34m er in London Electricity he

This is on the basis of the 228p closing price yesterday on the Stock Exchange's "grey market" ahead of the flotation.

The company defended the additional dividends partly on the grounds that the directors are obliged to subscribe £63,000 of their own money to the rights issue if they are to maintain their holdings.

The prospectus also discloses that a fifth executive director, Roger Urwin, who has just joined as managing director for transmission from London Electricity, could earn just over £250,000 with pension and maximum bonus.

Mr Urwin has not been given any National Grid Group shares or options in his new post, although as a sharehold-

tor at Clerical Medical, said yes-

terday: "We are not in serious

discussions at the present time

GE Capital, the powerful fi-

with a third party.

worth at least another £400,000. than £200,000 of grid shares as holdings in National Grid as a This is on the basis of the 228p a result of the flotation. His to-result of the demerger. tal London and NGG packages this year are well over £1m, and he is to join a new perfor-mance-related bonus scheme to

> Mr Urwin and another new director, Wob Gerretsen, are on two-year fixed contracts, which will become one-year rolling contracts when they expire. NGG rejected Labour criticisms that this broke the new Greenbury rules.

be set up by the grid.

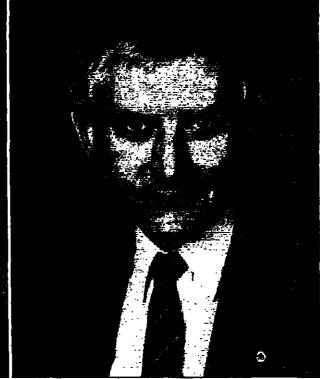
Furthermore, the directors shares in the pumped storage business that has just been spun off from National Grid as a prelude to a trade sale. The company valued the pumped storage business at £450m. A spokesman said the shares for directors were to compensate and potential option profits was entitled to receive more for a fall in the value of their

result of the demerger.
The shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, called their total package "the biggest pri-vatisation scandal so far" and accused the Government of riding roughshod over the proposals of the Greenbury Committee on executive pay.

National Grid announced profits 7 per cent higher at £330.7m on turnover 11 per cent higher at £706m, but disappointed the City with higherthan-expected start-up losses of will be given £156,000 worth of £40m at Energis, the new telecoms subsidiary.

Yesterday, seven electricity company shareholders in NGG, with stakes of just over 50 per cent, announced the terms on which they would pass on their shares to their own shareholders. All holdings must be sold





Grid gainers: David Jefferies (left), additional £91,000 dividend, and Roger Urwin, package worth £250,000

Clerical 'in bid | Virgin TV challenge talk' with GE

Clerical Medical, the UK mutual life insurer, is believed to be in discussions with a potential bidder, possibly GE Capital of the United States. Analysts put a price of about £1bn on Clerical Medical, the eleventh largest life company in Britain in terms of worldwide premiums.

Clerical is one of many mutuals busily reviewing their future in the light of much tougher business conditions in the life market, and the resources needed to keep up with technological change. Last month, Norwich Union, one of the country's biggest mutual in-surers, decided to convert to a public limited company, adding urgency to the argument among insurers and building societies about the importance of size and diversification.

Speculation about the suitor also centered on NatWest Group. Clerical Medical took a 7.5 per cent stake in NatWest Life when it was set up, and runs its administrative as well as some of its fund management operations. NatWest has met with only modest success in building up its life business, and the market believes it is interested in acquiring the expertise, systems and client list a mutual would provide.

gets court go-ahead

MATHEW HORSMAN

In a landmark decision that sent shock waves through the broad-

nancial services arm of General Electric, the American conglomerate, has publicly stated its intention of building up Television Commission which business in the UK. It has been last month awarded the 10linked to bid speculation surrounding Mercury Asset Man-Pearson and MAI.

agement, Baring Asset Management and Gartmore. Last week GE Capital announced that it is buying for £270m one of the US life inintroduction of the Channel 5 surance businesses put up for sale by Aon, a Chicago financial services group. Clerical

experience and a fund on which GÉ Capital could build. Clerical Medical traditionally sold life insurance through independent financial advisors, but recently built its own salaried sales force, with mixed results. A planned merger with NPI, another life company, col-

would bring products, market

lapsed three years ago. Its free asset ratio, used by analysts as a rough guide to the strength of a life fund, is low compared to its larger rivals. The percentage of free assets to total assets at Clerical is estimated to be 4.7, compared with 13.7 at Standard Life, 12.3 at the Prudential and 7.6 at Norwich

casting industry, the High Court yesterday gave Virgin TV leave to seek judicial review of the controversial Channel 5 award. The ruling will be acutely embarassing to the Independent

year licence to a consortium backed by the media companies Depending on how quickly the full hearing is completed, the legal challenge could delay

service, scheduled for 1997. The High Court ruled that Virgin TV, backed by Richard Branson's Virgin Group, had an "arguable case" that the decision was flawed by illegality, irrationality and procedural

impropriety.
The Virgin consortium claimed the ITC's decision had been irrational and wrong on several specific counts, including criticisms of the group's news service, the number of independent programme suppli-ers it had lined up and its management structure. It also complained that the winning consortium, Pearson/MAI, had been allowed to change the terms of its bid after the applications were sent in. Pearson had no comment

pany has said it had been asked to clarify its bid, and that there had been no alteration of its

The ITC said last night it was "confident that it awarded the Channel 5 licence in a fair and proper manner." Richard Branson has bat-

tled publicly in the past with ITC chairman George Russell, who is also chairman of Camelot, the national lottery operator. Mr Branson's not-for-profit bid for the lottery was rejected in favour of Camelot's offer.

Commenting on the High Court decision, Mr Branson said: "Perhaps the ITC chairman should now concentrate his efforts on his other role in life, that of chairman of Camelot." Virgin TV's partners include

Associated Newspapers and Paramount Television. Two oth-er members, HTV - the Weish ITV company - and Philips, the Dutch electronics giant, said yesterday they would sell their shares in the group to the remaining partners, raising spec-ulation that they did not want to continue the legal challenge. Virgin TV bid £22m for the

licence, but both it and UKTV, the Canadian-backed consortium that offered the highest bid at £36m, were rejected on quality grounds. The winner, Channel 5 Broadcasting, bid exactly the same as Virgin TV. The ITC awarded the licence to the highest bidder it said passed the last night. In the past, the com- quality threshold.

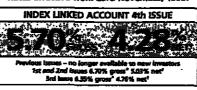
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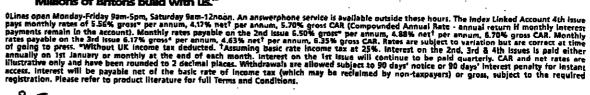
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Accused 'didn't care about pensioners'

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

The three accused in the Maxwell trial "didn't care tuppence about the pensioners' interests" when they pledged £22m worth of shares as secu-

rity for a loan. "All they cared about was saving the Maxwell empire, their position and their jobs," Alan Suckling QC, prosecuting. claimed on the second day of his final speech in the trial of Kevin Maxwell, his brother, Ian, and former Maxwell financial ad-

viser Larry Trachtenberg. Mr Suckling described as "laughable" Kevin's evidence that he thought the shares in the Israeli company, Teva, belonged to the Robert Maxwell Group.

The Maxwell Trial



Day 107

Kevin told the court that, in his last meeting with his father before his mystery death at sea, the tycoon told him that the ownership of the shares had been transferred from Bishopsgate Investment Management, which administered the pension funds, to Robert Maxwell Group. Mr Suckling alleged Kevin ing to her neighbour and say-knew quite well the shares reing, Look at that, my son is the ally belonged to the pension fund and that he had put them at dishonest risk by pledging

them as security for a loan in the days after his father's death. By that time he knew the group was in a perilous financial state and "that there was at least the prospect of default and the shares being swallowed up and never coming back again

must have been obvious". Mr Suciding reminded the jury that, according to Kevin when he gave evidence, 14 witnesses from the Maxwell Group and from banks had not been telling the truth.

"There is a story of a proud mother watching her son at a Scout troop meeting and turn- til Friday.

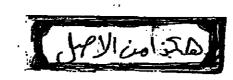
ing, Look at that, my son is the only one in step'."

Mr Suckling asked the jury: "Is that the position here, or is the position you have not been told the truth by Kevin Maxwell? We suggest he has not told you the truth and that he knew, knew duite well, what he was doing and that it was dishonest." The three accused deny conspiracy to defraud the pension

shares and dishonestly putting them at risk. Kevin alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his late father to defraud the pension funds by misusing £100m

funds by misusing the Teva

worth of Scitex shares. The trial was adjourned un-



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Courtaulds defies roller-coaster

Courtaulds' half-year neutres were the ultimate curate's egg, with two divisions much better than analysis' forecasts and one considerably worse. Profit forecasts were spot on as a result, but for all the wrong reasons, and changed expectations were reliefed in a 10 per cent rise in the bloom relief of a 10 per cent rise in the bloom relief of a 10 per cent rise. in the share price to 300p, reversing a dramatic slide ahead of the figures.

The market had been expecting a sharp fall from last year's pre-tax profits of £81m, thanks to the soaring cost of raw materials in the acrylics and viscose businesses, and the £68m reported was at the low end of expectations. Earnings per share slipped from 15p to 11.3p and the well-covered dividend rose only 3.6 per cent to 4.3p.

The extent of the downturn in the problem businesses reflected a massive rise in the price of acrylonitrile and wood pulp and resulted in a slump in profits from £42m to £26m.

But the City was pleasantly surprised ings, scalants and polymers, where combined profits grew from £50m in the half to £60m.

It really is a wonder that Courtaulds made any profit at all from its fibres and chemicals division in the face of a jump in acrylonitrile prices from \$700 a tonne to \$1,800 and all the way back again within a year. Running any business in such volatile conditions is next to impossible, and BP Chemicals and other suppliers have done the industry no favours at all in pushing through such destabilising gyrations.

But the good news is that acryloni-trile is back at a sensible level and wood pulp has plainly peaked. It can take as much as six months for price changes to work their way through the manufacturing system, but certainly by the first half of next year things will be looking at lot easier.

Other good news included buoyant sales of Courtaulds' new wonder-fibre. Tencel a hit in Australia and Japan and set to make a mountain of profits for the company in the long term.

The jump in Courtaulds' share price yesterday underlined the difficulty the market has in valuing a company whose profits are so dependent on the vagaries of commodity markets, the fate of which is increasingly being determined in the boom cities of southern China. Such is the buying power of the Chinese that overdoing it even slightly in Shenzhen can send world

Courtaulds is still a highly cyclical business, operating in relatively mature

(F) - Final (I) - Interior (N) - Nine months

Courtaulds' half-year figures were the industries and should be rated ac-

FKI victim of its own success

New management brought in from BTR and GEC in 1992 to sort out the sprawling FKI engineering group has been as good as its word. Three years down the line, the business has been focused on a few commanding niches and the promised near-doubling of margins to over 10 per cent is on track

But FKI has become a victim of its by improved performances from coat- own success. After more than quintupling in three years, the shares have fallen steadily from a high of 248p in March last year on doubts the recent spectacular record can be maintained.

cent ahead at £39.4m in the six months to September, ignoring the £12.4m loss on disposals last year. An interim dividend raised 10 per cent to 2.2p reflects a similar rise in earnings.

With little help from volumes, the margin story has continued in three of FKI's four divisions, pushing the group return on sales from 9 to 10.3 per cent. The only dud in the half-year was the hardware division, whose Truth subsidiary dominates the US market for window stays and the like. The collapse in North American housing sales, no-tably in Canada, cut turnover and margins, leaving operating profits down from £20.8m to £18.5m.

The company is cautiously pointing to the start of an upturn, but it is early days yet and analysts were shaving forecasts for the group yesterday. Group profits of £85m would put the shares at 159.5p, up 4.5p, on a forward rating of 15.

More important to sentiment will be whether FKI can pull off another acquisition after raising expectations following its £137m cash call in June. The potential is enormous: Amdura, The strength of the group is con-firmed by yesterday's half-time re-sults. showing underlying profits 27 per

Salvation lies in Meyer's hands

Meyer International seems to have run into every catastrophe imaginable this year. Its leading position in UK timber importing has failed to protect it from price falls of up to 20 per cent in softwoods since January, while the Jewsons chain of wood and builders merchants has been cruelly exposed to the moribund housing market.
On top of all this, PontMeyer, the

group's mirror-image operation in Holland, has been hit by a 35 per cent drop in wood prices and a five-week builders' strike.

However, Meyer has been warning of the problems for the past year and the group has done well to hold the fall in halfway pre-tax profits to £7.3m, leaving £20.1m for the six months to September. With news that the interim dividend is being pegged at 4.2p, the shares responded with a 15p rise to

378p yesterday.

Meyer confirmed its September profits warning. Analysts are looking for something over £40m before ex-ceptionals of £31m, putting the shares on a hefty forward p/e of 18.

But there are signs that management is at last realising that salvation lies in its own hands. Action at Jewsons has already improved margins from a low of 4.6 per cent in the second half of last year to 5.9 per cent. Now around £20m is to be spent over the next nine months to improve the branches, following on from the recent acquisition of 21 Builder's Mate outlets from Wickes. Meanwhile, stocks in the timber importing operation have been re-duced to a 13-year low and Meyer's position strengthened with the acquisition of a similar business from Harrisons & Crosfield.

The problem is these investments are being made against an unpromising background. There is little sign of any upturn in UK housing, and expecta-tions of a recovery in timber prices early next year are more of a hope than a forecast. The shares look high enough

at the ball game Tom Clancy follows the example of our own Sting. He shows he has more money than he can keep his hands on by losing a fortune to a con man. The American author of The Hunt for Red October has been relieved of \$1.6m by an alleged fraudster he met at a baseball game. US prosecutors claim that Richard Scott told the author that he could make his money earn 30 to 40 per cent by investing it in equities. So im-pressed was Mr Clancy that he took his new financial ad-viser straight home and wrote

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

An expensive day

Shark-infested waters: Sean Connery in The Hunt for Red October, by baseball enthusiast Tom Clancy

pheasants. Thanks to the Granada bid he didn't get a shot off. But Granada's boss. Gerry Robinson, got a shot in of his own, "I get invited on pheasant shoots all the time." he says. "I just can't stand the idea of doing it."

empire. The hotelier has been Cold comfort for John Major forced to read the riot act to in the viewing figures for the the management of Travelodge, the cheap and cheerful roadside inn operaparty conference season. which have just landed on tion, after a startling jump in BBC desks. Tragically for the Conservatives, the Prime the room occupancy rates. When they hit 150 per cent it Minister did not top the ratfinally dawned on the Forte ings. Come to that he did not people that the beds were beeven come second, or third, or fourth. No. Mr Major's ing used for something other than a good night's sleep. Such hanky-panky will probably remain beneath the keynote address in Blackpool on 13 October attracted only the fifth-largest audience. Tony Blair's speech to the

dignity of Sir Rocco Forte. the group's chairman, who Labour party conference on started the day yesterday with 3 October topped the ratings with one million viewers. The the intention of shooting

Pulses race at marathon Maxwell trial as OJ Simpson's lawyer is spotted in the public gallery. Johnnie Cochran was invited to see how large-scale trials are handled over here by

Smith Purnell, the company that provides a simultaneous computer transcript of the trial to the judge and barristers.

During his flying visit Mr Cochran managed to squeeze in a quick cup of coffee with the Maxwell judge, Lord Justice Phillips, during one of the morning breaks. In camera, alas.

him a cheque for \$400,000 (as you do). The rest came later.

Mr Scott, the story goes, did not to simply vanish with the money. No, he apparently

invested it in some specula-tive funds with Paine Webber

with much the same effect.

prompt yet another novel on Wall Street and global finan-cial meltdown. Not that Mr

Clancy is on his uppers. He has earned \$28m in the last

Problems of a typically Ugan-dan nature appear to have blighted parts of the Forte

two years.

The experience is bound to

second-highest figure was achieved by Michael Hesel-tine on a breakfast phone-in the next day (discussing the Blair speech). The bronze medal also went to Mr Heseltine for his one-legged-man impersonation at the Tory conference and fourth place went to Brian Mawhimev That left Mr Major trailing

in fifth with 700,000 viewers. A display of cowardice worthy of the firing squad from the directors of the National Grid. In the process of briefing the City on the nuts and bolts of their business, the richly remunerated bright sparks have suddenly developed a yellow streak on the question of their salaries.

David Jones, group chief executive, and John Uttley, finance director, are happy to talk personally about electricity. But at the first mention of pay packets an interrogator is whipped off to another room and locked in with a PR man - all of which is a bit odd given that Mr Uttley at least is giving his £60,000 windfall to charity.

nut of work incentives.

	Courtauld)		
	Market value: £	:62bn, share p	nice 399p		
Five-Year re	cord 1993	-1994 full year -	1995	1994 — itali	1995
Turnover (Eba)	100	£95	2.13	÷1.03	4,15
Pre-tax profits (En	n) 186	122	151		. 68
Earnings per shar	s (pepce) 35.7	20.3	25.4	450	113
Dividends per sha	re (pence) 14:0	14.8	15.4	4.15	4.3
Operating p	profit by activity	- De	hare pric	e	**************************************
Polymer products —	Coatings & sealants	600		11.	
and the second		500 —			A
		400 350			
Fibres & chemicals		300 -	n 92	93 94	95

Dividend 4 3p (4 15p 13 2m (11.3m) 0 65m (1.06m) 6 4p (7p) FK3 (1) 429m (378m) 39 4m (18.7m) 5.26p (4 78p) 2.2p (2p) 16.6m (16 4m) 2.5m (2.2m) 14.6p (12.2p) 3p (2.5p) 0 54m (0 33m) 1 54p (0 87p) 0.8p (-) ons Lloyd's (i) - (-) 638m (669m) 20.1m (27 4m) 10 3p (14.4p) 4 2p (4.2p) 4,59m (0.74m) 0.45m (-0.23m) 7 4p (-3 8p) nº (nil) 28.1m (28.2m) 3.9m (3.4m) 9.56p (8.81p) 2.8p (2.5p) Sterlieg lads (I) Symonds Eng (1) 5.54m (3.21m) 0.52m (0.17m) 1.64p (1.34p) 0.5p (0.25p) 193m (164m) 12.8m (9.6m) 16.97p(14.28p) 7p (6.65p) 0.25m (-0.25m) 0.8p (-1.8p) nil (nil) erley Miping (F)

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Every Thursday in the **XINDEPENDENT** section two

hammer to crack the work incentive nut would leave welfare recipients On any cost-benefit analysis.

Gordon Brown's declared is a sign of the times that Gordon Brown feels compelled to 10 per cent has generally been regarded in the City as an astute piece of political theatre designed to trump the tax card Kenneth Clarke is about to play. But the proposal could give Labour the perfect excuse

to finance half the cost by a swipe at the corporate sector. New Labour's fetching new pose as a low income tax party was intended to be provocative - and so it has turned out. An acrimonious war of words immediately broke out between Labour and the independent think-tank, the Institute for Fiscal Studies, over the relative merits of low tax bands and rais-

Gordon Brown's contention was that a lower starting rate of income tax would be fairer than raising allowances. If combined with benefit changes, it would also be more effective in helping low earners and the unemployed off welfare.

If Labour were really serious about the fairness of the tax system, it would be pinning its colours to a cut in VAT, which colours to a cut in VAT, which is a much more effective way of of tax would be more effective

fight the Tories on their own chosen ground of income tax. But is his proposal the fairest way to cut income tax?

The charts below compare two ways of spending £7bn on income tax reductions. The first pays for a cut in the starting rate from 20 to 10 per cent. The second pays for an increase in the tax-free allowance of £1,500, while adjusting the higher rate threshold of taxable income to ensure higher rate payers do not benefit disproportionately.

The charts show that there is little in it. Both are certainly much fairer than using the same pot of cash to make a cut of almost 4p in the basic rate. But if you had to choose the two in terms of equity, you would plump for cutting allowances, since every decile in the poorest 50 per cent of the population does somewhat better.

Labour's case is no stronger when it comes to the question of work incentives. Here, Gordon Brown's argument is that



ECONOMIC VIEW PAUL WALLACE

than lower allowances in mov- worthwhile to work if this were ing people off welfare into work, if combined with cuts in the rates at which means-tested benefits are withdrawn as welfare recipients earn money. At present, for example, fam-

ily credit is withdrawn at 70p in the pound and housing benefit at 65p in the pound. Since these withdrawal rates, called tapers, are applied to post-tax income, they can have the effect of creating extraordinarily high marginal tax rates, leaving welfare recipients only 3p better off for every extra pound

So what would happen if these withdrawal rates were reduced by 10 percentage points, taking the taper for family credit down to 60 per cent and that for housing benefit down to 55 per cent? A further analysis by the IFS

showed that more unemployed households would find it more

combined with increased al-

lowances rather than with a 10 per cent lower rate band. For low earners, it is benefit withdrawal rates rather than in-

come tax rates that matter. A similar reduction in the tapers under the present tax system rate.

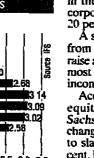
ductions in the tapers would cost £500m. That's a lot of money, but only a fraction of the estimated £7bn it would cost to replace the 20 per cent tax band with a 10 per cent lower

the cut in the tapers were com-

bined with a new 10 per cent Even so, there is one way in starting rate of income tax, which Labour could find about they would end up all of 1p bethalf the money for such a ter off, with 8p in the pocket. change – by exploiting the new rates to clobber the corporate According to the Department of Social Security such re-

Consider the following sequence of events. In the 1992 Budget just before the election, Norman Lamont outsmarts the late John Smith by introducing the new 20 per cent band. A year later, tax-exempt pension funds get a very unwelcome Easter present - the reduction Distribution of gains from tax reductions

with 7p in the pocket for an extra pound of earned income. If is taking a hammer to crack the



in their tax credit on advance corporation tax rate from 25 to 20 per cent.

A similar reduction in ACT from 20 to 10 per cent would raise almost £3bn, paying for almost half the new lower rate of

According to Paul Walton, equity analyst at Goldman Sachs, the effect of such a change on the market would be to slash share prices by 7 per cent. Now there's a political uncertainty for the market to brood on in a week in which it hit a new all-time high.

US stagging blamed for MAID volatility

TOM STEVENSON Deputy City Editor

The roller-coaster ride in MAID's shares continued yes-terday after the business information group raised \$38.4m in a US share issue.

After opening at 269p, the shares jumped to 290p in early snares jumped to 250p in early trading but closed 40p lower at 250p. Dealers blamed stagging by American investors, who picked up their shares at the equivalent of 242.2p.

Only a week ago, the shares touched 230p as investors piled.

touched 330p as investors piled into the stock on the back of a potentially lucrative tie-up with Microsoft and the prospect of a Nasdaq listing that would bring the company a stock marbring the company a stock mar-ket quotation in its biggest mar-ket and where high-tech stocks

are enjoying a massive bull run. Dan Wagner, chief execu-tive, said: "We have been greatly encouraged by the strong share price performance since announcing our intended US public offering. This has enabled the financing to be secured at a higher price than initially anticipated while still satisfying our goal of greater share liquidity and resulting in lower dilution

for existing shareholders." Shareholders who drove the price to its recent peak were badly wrong-footed by a Stock Exchange ruling that forbids a placing of shares at a discount of more than 10 per cent to the prevailing market price. Having announced that it would raise US funds at the equivalent of 240p, the placing could only go ahead if the shares fell to 265p. which they duly did.
MAID said it would continue

with the US offer despite this hecause it thought the potential investor interest in America would mean it could raise more money that way, even at a big discount, than by a rights issue to existing shareholders.

The gyrations in MAID's shares in the past week are the latest chapter in a volatile existence on the market since flotation in March 1994, when an attempt to value a company making just £600,000 profits at £130m was greeted with scepticism. In the end talk of floating at 150p a share was resolved with a placing at 110p, valuing the company at £89m. The City was still not convinced and the shares drifted to a low of 43p in

Long-term carer in £45m housing deal

NIC CICUTTI

Westminster Health Care, one of the largest providers of longannounced yesterday that it is jointly buying Peverel, a private sheltered housing manager, for £45.8m.

The deal, with Holiday Retirement Corporation, a US firm offering similar services, in-volves both organisations pav-ing £6.5m each in cash. The balance will be met by a £32.5m loan from Bank of Scotland,

Westminster's new joint venture comes as the insurance industry positions itself for a massive £5bn a year boom in sales of long-term care insurance in the wake of new government initiatives.

The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is believed to be ready to announce in the Budget next week that he is to scrap means tests for elderly people who need long-term care but still have assets of more than £8,000.

In return, elderly people would be expected to take out insurance cover to fund the first three years of their care, whether residential or in their

Industry estimates suggest the market for policies could grow from 15,000 sold each year to more than 500,000 by the end of the decade.

Earlier proposals to give tax breaks for taking out cover are thought to have been abandoned by ministers after warnings that such a measure might be seen as helping only the already well-off. Companies such as Peverel,

which manages almost 500 shel-tered housing developments with 21,000 flats, are also expected to gain from the anticipated growth in the numbers of elderly people in Britain. It owns the freehold of about 15,000 flats.

Peverel also operates a lead-ing "round the clock" emergency call response system known as Careline. The system is already installed in 300 of the managed developments, and Westminster Health Care hopes to expand it within other sectors of the market.

Pat Carter, chief executive of WHC, said: "We are delighted to be able to acquire a 50 per cent share of the leading retirement management company

IN BRIEF

Management buyout at British Fuels

British Coal has sold its British Fuels businesses to a management buyout in a deal worth around £60m. The management, headed by David Port, hopes to take advantage of the deregulation of the gas market. Turnover was around £400m last year and the business employs more than 1,600.

Miners sell out at Monktonhall

Waverley Mining is to buy the remaining shares of Monktonhall, the Edinburgh collicry taken over by its miners in 1992. Waverley took a 49 per cent stake last year and is now is buying out the 158 miners who own the remainder. The deal values each miner's holding at £10,000, the amount each invested in the buy-out.

Proudfoot trading 'better in second half'

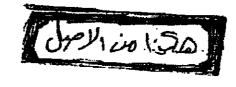
Proudfoot, the management consultancy group, issued a trading statement yesterday in response to sharp falls in its share price. The shares slumped 6p to 19p, recovering to 24p by the close. Proudfoot said it knew no reason for the fall. Trading in the second half was better than in the first half, the company said.

Wagon profits soar to £12.8m

Profits at Wagon Industrial, the storage products and retail systems group, increased by 33 per cent to £12.8m in the six months to September. Borrowings were down from £13.5m to £3.7m. Two business have been sold since the year for £6m.

FDA warning dents Ferraris

A warning from the US Food and Drugs Administration dented profits at Ferraris group, the international products and services company last year. The warning to the group's medical products division resulted in a four month ban on all exports of respiratory products to the USA. Profits fell from £1m to £648,000 in the year to August. The group reported strong order books and confirmed its commitment to medical hardware.

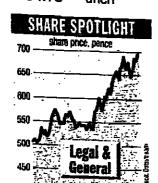


market report/shares

DATA BANK FT-SE 100 3,632.4 + 28.3

FT-SE 250 3,949.3 + 8.1FT-SE 350 1,801.4 +11.8

SEAQ VOLUME 937.6m shares. 32,023 bargains Gilts Index 94.73 - unch



[]

Investors line up L&G as next takeover candidate

didates with many bewhiskered build its investment managethe limelight.

For a long while Forte was catering and hotel group seemed to lose its takeover appeal as it trimmed down to cut its debt mountain.

a succession of mega-bids with some old favourites falling, the market anticipates much more corporate action.

A 900p-a-share offer for the Legal & General insurance giant was the hot tip after the trading. The shares, up 13p at stock market had absorbed 695p, are at a high and many the £3.1bn blockbuster Grana- believe, without a bid, are expensive. L&G has £36bn of Not surprisingly, the strike funds under management. Nafor Forte produced an array of tional Westminster Bank has rumours about likely bid can-made no secret of its desire to

old faithfuls forced back into ment side and is regarded as a possible bidder. A continental strike is also regarded as a prime bid target. rumoured. Allianz, the Ger-But in the past few years the man insurer that bid unsuccessfully for Eagle Star a decade ago, could be interested and there is even talk of a German bank, perhaps

Still, in a year that has seen succession of mega-bids with ome old favourites falling, Commercial Union 9p to 635p. ne market anticipates much are corporate action.

Rumours of a big insurance

Prudential gained 6.5p to 430p. Banks, helped along by the Whitehall clearance of strike have strengthened in Lloyds Bank's offer for TSB, recent weeks with L&G and Royal Insurance the names put talk of bids and deals captur-



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

Yorkshire 16p to 612p. Grana-

The takeover excitement

of its US banking arm, put on

5.5p to 692p. strength from the bid. Brewers Standard Chartered, the with hotel interests firmed; sector's current takeover Bass was up 4p to 686p and favourite, gained 20p to 572p Vaux 7p to 269p; Ladbroke, at and Bank of Scotland 6p to 272p. Abbey National ad-vanced 19.5p to 621p and Bar-at 138.5p after touching 148p.

clays 17p to 810p.

The day's star performer was, not surprisingly, Forte which surged 72.5p to 347.5p.

Its satellite companies, Alpha

Tess Television, two companies thought to have been in Granada's sights, fell with Pearson off 11p at 648p and Value 16p to 612p. Granada Airports and Savoy Hotel, joined in the fun. Alpha rose da fell 48p to 649p. 13p to 114p and Savoy came to life with the 'A' shares up 142p gave the FT-SE 100 index an-

ment. Vodafone, the mobile telephone group, had a torrid time with American investors, who had more than 40 per cent Lloyds jumped 21.5p to 871p and TSB 7p to 415p. 'B' shares were unchanged at NatWest, negotiating the sale 1,800p. of the group at the last count, said to be keen sellers. With Seaq putting volume at 56.5 1,800p.

Most leisure groups drew strength from the bid. Brewers Seaq putting volume at 56.5 million shares the price col-

lapsed 23p to 216p.
It seems many of Vodafone's hitherto loyal US followers were unsettled by the cautious trading statement, pointing to tighter margins.

MAID, with its US offering completed at 242.5p, touched Pearson and Yorkshire-Tyne 290p, closing at 250p. Cable & Wireless, seen as

Granada's sights, fell with the most vulnerable blue chip Pearson off 11p at 648p and to a hostile takeover strike following the boardroom departures, gained 37p to a year's high of 466p.

denied it intended to cut its 20 per cent shareholding. The shares lost 9p to 458p.

Courtanids, the chemical

another 12.5p to 255.5p, a deficit into a £108,000 profit year's low. Fears it will be in the first six months of this growing and sentiment was also ruffled by the latest downgrading, with Nat West Securities lowering £10m to £140m. about to appoint new stock-Hillsdown Holdings, the food brokers and expansion move group, slipped 2p to 150p.as the market became aware of a possible downgrading from

Barclays de Zoete Wedd. Opec's decision to roll over the 24.52 million barrels a day production ceiling sent Shell to 801p, up 8p, and British Pe-troleum to 506.5p, also up 8p.

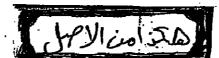
jumped 28.3 points to 3,632.4 with volume put at 22.1 million Developments are thought with another trading peak in New York also helping senti
228p. Developments are thought to be under way at Jarvis, the once-ailing building and con-228p. once-ailing building and cor Guinness remained under the weather; although LVMH management, led by Paris Moayedi, has moved in. The shares rose 1p to 22.25p, valuing the group at £9m. The price has moved between

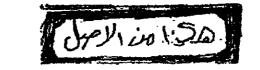
group, jumped 39p to 399p following better-than-expected figures, but Incheape tumbled Jarvis turned a near-£3m deficit into a £108,000 profit forced to cut its dividend are year and stronger progress is likely in the second six

> The group is thought to be brokers and expansion moves will follow.

Telecom Credit Europe, one of the earlier arrivals on the Alternative Investment Market, is rumoured to be set for corporate action. The shares rose 3p to 46p; they have been as high as 53p.

400 J J A S O N	Royal Insurance the names put forward,	talk of bids and deals captur- ing the imagination.	to 1,025p on the possibility of	gave the FT-SE 100 index an- other record-breaking day. It	National Grid, in its when- issued form, traded up to 237p	troleum to 506.5p, also up 8p. have been as high as 53p.
### 17 10 2016 12 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	## COTWARD. ### Company ### C	### Loss Seek Page Cong Val Pic Cong Val Pi	### Sect	Section Page Chap Tal Michael Section Sect	SSUED STORY OF THE CORP OF THE	SHARE PRICE DATA Prices are in significacopy where stated. The yield is lest year's thirdeed, ground up by 30 per cent. as a percentage of the share price. The prices are in significant prices where the process of the share price. The prices are in significant prices where the prices is the share price of the prices of the share price. The prices are in significant prices are in significant prices and prices are in significant prices and prices are in significant prices. The prices are in significant prices are in significant prices are in significant prices. The prices are in significant prices are in significant prices are in significant prices. Sometime the same prices by prices are in significant prices. Sometime state are in significant prices are in significant prices. Sometime state are in significant prices.
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Harding in line for One Man show

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RICHARD EDMONDSON

Richard Dunwoody will partner Merry Gale at Punchestown this weekend, ensuring there will be a merry jockey in Britain over

the next few days. The champion jockey's dec-laration yesterday that he is to maintain links with Jim Dreaper's gelding means the ride on One Man, the favourite for Saturday's Hennessy Gold Cup at Newbury, remains at the ey, taking the mount. Harding has a chance to put neon around his chances this after-

Man's trainer, yesterday peeled off a succession of riders he was considering for his grey following the injury to his stable jockey, Tony Dobbin, Graham McCourt, Lorcan Wyer, Peter Niven and Jamie Railton were on the list, but it appears that one of the weighing room's youngbloods may be favourite.

The Penrith trainer rather likes the idea of Brian Harding, his Cork-born conditional jocktop of the situations vacant.
Gordon Richards, One horses for Richards at Carlisle.

The 23-year-old jockey, who has ridden 35 winners and who is just three months younger than Dobbin, popped One Man over three fences yesterday, a continuation of the impressive

NAP: Reve En Rose (Taunton 3.00) NB: The Black Monk (Taunton 3.30)

RICHARD EDMONDSON

vaulting the seven-year-old has produced since returning to

three fences again this morning. so there is nothing wrong with him," Richards said.

One Man's fencing, however, is a subject for some discussion. For a horse who is 13-8 for one of the season's most competitive chases, he has an crashing fall at Kempton. "He was unlucky with the first one. he just slipped on landing and

done everything right since we derstand it," Richards said. "It about that race," Richards said. had him back and he's jumped must have been a one-off. I "He's classy enough all right and don't think his jumping will let him down on Saturday." hopefully he'll be the one for the Gold Cup. I'd like to knock that

The last time that Richards rode as a professional jockey may have been before Prince Andrew was added to the Royal Family but he is still an enthusiastic figure on the gallops, where he regugly record, having unscated at Wetherby last season before 65-year-old bobbles around on scrambling his senses with a the grey's back he must dream of success in just about the one big chase to clude him as a trainer, the Gold Cup. "It's early days training. He has jumped 60 ob-stacles without blemish. "He's second one we still can't un-Hennessy if we're going to talk er Sherwood's yard. He is to

"He's classy enough all right and Gold Cup. I'd like to knock that race off because it's every trainer's ambition." The parchment of the histo-

ry book will certainly elevate One Man to great company if he becomes only the second horse to win consecutive Hennessys. The other was a rather useful animal called Arkle. Another tyro with a marvel-

lous opportunity on Saturday is Jimmy McCarthy, the undernearly got away with it, and the and he's got to go well in the study to Jamie Osborne at Oliveration for the ride on the



Dunwoody: deserted Man

partner the Charlie Egerton trained Mysilv in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle. If he performs impressively, Mc-Carthy will come into considmare in the Champion Hurdle.

the Japanese that money does

not always guarantee success on the turf. The betting, however,

must be that on Sunday morn-

have a membership of one.

Plans by United Racecourses

Britain's women earn their reward

Hockey

BILL COLWILL reports from Cape Town Great Britain Netherlands

Great Britain showed tremendous character to come from behind twice in a bruising encounter to draw with the European Champions in the Olympic qualifying tournament here yesterday, moving significantly nearer to securing their ticket to Atlanta next summer.

With Diane Renilson in the central_defensive position for Karen Brown, Britain were put under pressure from the first whistle and it was no surprise when the Dutch took the lead in the eighth minute. A hard cross from the left by the Dutch captain. Wietske de Ruiter, was deflected high into the net by Suzan van der Wielen.

ing, the British branch of the Britain wrestled their way Japan Cup winner's club will still back into the game with Jane Sixsmith prominent, and to develop Kempton as a flood-lit, all-weather venue have been equalised in the 26th minute. Rhona Simpson showing typical Scottish tenacity to score for the third successive game.
The Dutch were handed the

lead three minutes into the second halt when a carelessly taken free hit by Renilson was punished by Jeannette Lewin. But Britain were on terms within three minutes as Dutch indiscipline was punished with a penalty corner and Sue Fraser crushed the ball home.

Brown, who arrived back from hospital at the beginning of the day, has a fractured skull and will take no further part in ដាំ៖ lournament

Lite IOUTHAMENT.
GREAT BRITAIN: J Thompson (Ipswch); S
Fraser (Grove), J Atlans (Bratford Swithenicani, capt), D Remison (Edinburgh), L Cape
(Belsam Leicaster); M Davies (Sutton Canda Liel), P Robertson (Grove), T Miller (Cafon);
M Micholis (Slough), J Shamith (Sutton Canda Liel), A Beannett (Slough), S MacDonald
(Glasgow Western), C Cook (Hightown),
NETHERHANDS: S De Heij; E Holsboer, D van
der Boogsard, M Vossen, S Piesman; J Lewn,
F Steenbergie, M Tecuwen; S van der Welen, E Kuppers, W de Rutter (capt), Substitutes
tumptres; R Chatas (US), J McClemtock (Can). Umnires: R Chatas (US), J McCintock (Can)

Pesults, Sporting Digest, page 31

£10m bid for Whitbread race glory

Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER

Whitbread Round the World Race was announced in Stockholm yesterday by EF Education, which will field two boats with all-male and all-female

The budget covers the purchase of the boat which came second in 1993/94, Intrum Justitia, another training boat, and the design and construction of two new boats for the race which starts in September 1997.

England may provide one of the boat builders and be used as a training base. Already joining the team - though no skippers are named - are Johan Salen and Magnus Olsson, who were with Intrum last time, and Mikaela von Koskull, who was with Heineken.

Sadly for home interest, the only recent British announcement was by a Southampton group called Pelagos Manage-ment, which is looking for funds, and, while the Whitbread Race seems to have no shortage of interested highclass syndicates, it has struggled to find major sponsors to mitigate its own £10m-£12m

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football

BORD GAIS LEASUE OF IRELAND Pro Division: Dungalk v UCD, FA YOUTH CHALLENGE CUP First ro

PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Luarpool v Tight-mere (7.0). Second Division: Bradford v Hud-

PONTHIS ELBEUE First Division: Lampool y Tem-mere (7.0); Lecester v Coventry (7.0); Sunderland v Manchester City (7.0); Pon Vale v York (7.0). AWON INSURANCE COMMENSION First Division: Crystal Palace v Tottenhern (7.0); Ipswich v Anstrail.

Rugby Union

Other sports

TODAY'S

NUMBER

16

The days by which Bryan Robson became the oldest player to turn out for Middlesbrough in a League game. Robson played against Spurs on Tuesday two months short of his 39th birthday, beating keeper Tim Williamson, who played against Cardiff City in 1923 aged 38 and 298 days.

Small hope of Grain following Brittain's Japanese lead

GREG WOOD

Hundreds of thousands of horse races take place around the world each year, but Clive Brit-tain believes he knows which is the most difficult of all to win. And, being Clive, you can be fairly sure that he is not saying so simply because he is the only

British trainer to have won it. "I'd say that the Japan Cup

is the hardest," he said vester-

UTTOXETER

12.50 Quiet Amusement

1.20 Captain Marmalade 1.50 Callisoe Bay

2.20 Can Can Charlie

HYPERION

GOING: Clases - Good (Good to Firm in places); Hurdles - Good to Pirm (Good in places).

Left-hand course. Num-in of 170yd.

Course is SE of town in B5017. Uttoxeter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Club £15 (OAPS £12); Tamersalls £10 (OAPS £7); Course £3. CAR PARE: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS; M Pipe — 43 winners from 143 runners gives a success ratio of 30.1% and a profit to a 51 level stake of 512.50; K Balley — 27 winners, 84 runners, 27.4%, +517.35; N Twiston-Davies — 17 winners, 57 runners, 19.5%, -512.10; O Sherwood — 15 winners, 52 runners, 28.8%, +514.80.

+514.30.

LEADING JOCKEYS: 2 Dunwoody — 38 winners, 163 rides, 23.3%, -547.75; J Osborne — 27 winners, 84 rides, 32.1%, +568.74; N Williamson — 24 winners, 148 rides, 16.2%, -522.53; A Maguire — 20 winners, 119 rides, 16.8%, -52.34.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE: Smith's Band (2.50) won at Winzarism on Thurstoners, 130 winners, 130 winners, 140 winners, 150 winners

day; Silverdale Fox (1.20) won at Catterick on Monday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNEES: Born To Be Wild (3.50) has been sent 176 miles by M Pipe

12.50 MANNY BERNSTEIN MARES NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,800 added 2m Penalty Value £2,026

9 declared –
 BETTING: 9-4 Scorched Air, 6-2 Stac-Polisids, 9-2 Quiet Assumement, 6-1 Syste Mountain, 8-1 St

ST KITTS could surprise in this grade after pulling up in a better league at Chepstow. That followed a Flat run at Followstone and her previous showings at Tauriton (second to Greenbock last season) gives her a righting chance in a bad race. White Lady makes her hundles debut but she is a Flat winner and a fun on the level on Monday makes her an interesting outsider. The money is likely to come for Lamie Ostome's mount. Secreted All after wins

Of The Registal Towester, she looks a shade suspect today in the vision. Quiet Amisement won a bad race here in August and has since run in a fun Flat-race at Huntingdon. She is nothing much but has claims in a week affair. Kim Balley drops Stace-Politaich in class after her fifth to Three Philosophers at Hereford last week. Heavily beaten at Wincardon Betrehand, her site was a sprinter so the decision to drop her in distance tooks the right one. Marble was slow on the Flat but Greenacres Lady is well enough bred and could easily surprise.

1.20 EAST MIDLANDS CHAMBER SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m Penaity Value £1,928

FORM GUIDE

Captain Mermatade would seem something of a decent punt in this seller after failing by a short head against Can Can Charte at Kempton Isst week. He was earlier besten in this grade at Strattord when fit form the Flat and I just feel something will beat him. Silventialle Fox has a 6th penalty for beating a poor tot at Castenck on Monday. He seems to be over his problems and is again against modest types but BEECHFIELD FLYER is the one after possibly finding Towester a but too tough last time when favourite. That fifth to Tamandu on Saturday followed an encouraging timd to Scorched Air at Bengtyr after a lengthy by-oil and he deserves another chence. Lambson was a surprising favourite at Market Rasen alter his lay-off even accepting the fact that he hailed from an in-form stable. He finished tailed behind Little Blackfoor with Tamo Cand beaton miles when finishing fifth. Selfs Secret was exerted a race at Tauriton less time when the first four were disqualified for going the wrong side of a hardie. She looks beatiable even with Jamie Osborne ording her again, white Sharp Gazzelle looks another to bypass on her Exerter and Pumpton defeats.

zelle looks another to bypass on her Exster and Plumpton del

1.50 ALLSPORT BARRIER SYSTEMS NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m Penaity Value £3,453

The fences have to be jumped and CALLISOE BAY was not a surprising failer when challenging the leaders two out at Cheltenham after looking far from being a natural over the early fences. He was in a different league to these over hurdles but I would not take short adds about him jumping a clear round so Reachlooth has to rate a saving bet for Placepot hunters after running better then his position would suggest behind Destiny Calls at Bangor on his reappearance. He ran away with a week hurdle at Lingfield in January and has promised to do better over fences. He will be better for the education at usary and looks the one to capitable of Callisce Bay makes bloomers. Sprinsing Steel sans at Hereford after a spirited effort against Large Action here but Storming Rain, so lengths behind him in that race, may need further to collect, while Herefold has shown some promise since arriving from Irisland but lack of recent action sets him a task.

Selection: CALLISOE BAY

2.20 GEO, HODGES & SON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,800 added 2m 4f 1.10yds Penalty Velue £2,145

1 224/233 GONE BY (REC) (151) (2h) (Mrs T McCountry) 1 Jenters 7 11 13 JOStomme
44-SP13 MCCARCHIM (26) (R E Gray) N Morgan 6 11 11 AS Smith
512557 MARRWAN (428) (0) (Man C Cadoret) / Specing 7 11 7 Miles C Specing (7)

FORM GUIDE

ANARO- PER THERTY NEWE (447) (D) (New Emight) J Parkes 9 12 0...

11. POP(3FO ASSEMBLY DANCER (5) (Máss B W Palmer) D Williams 8 10 (12. 000P-05 IARIO CARD (RRE) (12) (G A Familian) R Woodhousi 4 10 0...

2.50 Smith's Band

3.20 ELFLAA (nap)

3.50 Claireswan

day. "The Japanese are getting stronger all the time and you're meeting them at full force, at the height of their season. The Australians are at the peak of their year too, and they send

their best horses. 'Our horses will be at the tail end unless they've had an enforced rest like Jupiter Island (Brittain's winner in 1986). He went out there a fresh horse but Japan's standard of racing since we won has come on 10-fold."

Brittain, remember, is one of life's great optimists, which only re-emphasises the scale of the task facing Michael Stoute's Pure Grain in the 1995 Japan Cup on Saturday. Had Stoute leaned over his Newmarket neighbour's fence for a little advice before leaving for Japan on Tuesday, he might have cancelled his reservation. Nonetheless. Pure Grain has now arrived at Fuchu racecourse in Tokyo

reported vesterday, regained the weight she lost in transit. She will need it.

"We made her exercise on grass so she can get used to the Japanese turi," the spokesman said. "She will have a lighter training programme here than in Britain to take into account the travelling. But she will have a hard work-out on Friday."

Pure Grain has run just five times this year, but still cannot and, a spokesman for her yard be said to have had a light sea-

7 CP5365 ELITELESS (CLS) (S) U Johnson R Weber 10 10 3 _______P McLongidin 8 340-64 NOBLE INSIGHT (14) (C) Johns L A Lathou W Mann 8 10 0 _______ Mr D Verco ______ B dectared -______ Mr D Verco ______ B dectared -______ Mr D Verco ______ B CRITINGS 84 Can Can Charite, 7-2 Miss Caethal, 4-1 Nocenchin, 5-1 Gone By, 10-1 Kadari, 14-1 Elito-Ess, 18-1 others

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

This is a weak handscap and Rederi will nearly win it if coping with the tast ground. The lack of a recent race may not be the problem at this closs and she could not have won more impressively at Nottingham (good to soft) in February when storming clear of Do Rightly and 20 others. But the fast surface is just a worry so MISS CASHTAL, gets the vote after disposing of Philip Hobbs' Royal Ag Nag on ment at Towcoster (2m). Besten only five lengths when third to the useful Neat Feat in a bumper at Worcester, MISS Cashtas should do over better for this stop up in distance and must have every chance at the weights. The longer trip is the problem for winning Flat performer Can Can Chartille after a narrow win from Captain Marmolade (runs in the 1.20 seter) at Kempton (2m), while Gone By has already had three runs this month and looks bestable with the big weight. Nocatchian runs from the front and this longer trip may count against hom, while Equitrock specialist Jarriwals has not run for a year and a half. Selection: MISS CASHTAL.

2.50 BARRY D TRENTHAM CHALLENGE BOWL HANDICAP CHASE

Minimum weigh: 10st. Two handkap weight Mo kril 0s of SR. BETTING: evens Smith's Bund, 5-4 Strong Medicine, 10-1 Honest Word, 12-1 Sailor Jim, 16-1 Mo

FORM GLEDE

SMITH'S BAND is the fancy over Strong Modicine. Both can be expected to string some wars together this season and there was something to like about the way Smith's Bend bushed aside a layoff to win a shade costly from Clever Shepherd with Romany Creak well back in third at Wincarton a week ago. That was his first start since the Chelienham Festural so he has every hope of delying this tip penalty with the run sure to bring him on and with stable being in such fine form. Strong Medicine missed all of last season and reappeared against a couple of in-form sorts in General Rusty and Badasan here in September, His jumping was a bit hit-end-miss but to be besten only so lengths when conceang 9th to the subsequent Charlesmas Gold Cup winner at Kempton was a decent effort considering the layoff. He has a botter winning record on fast ground than Smith's Band so his chance must be greatly respected, though I still feel Smith's Band is the one to follow. Hosest Word was hurser chasing last season after looling decent as a nowce with Martin Pipe. He is owned by the course chairman and a bold should is expected with Limie Railton a good booking. Sallion Jing gets the weight and has twice won on this course.

3.20 R L HARRISON CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m Penalty Value £2,624

-11 declared Minimum weight: 10st, True handlesp weight: Hunters' Henven, Sudden Spin Set 13th, Domein Set 7b.
BETTING: 9-4 Effice, 11-4 Retify, 6-1 Hunters' Houves, 8-1 Zaltoon, Star Market, 12-1 Phonum.

This has a weak look about it with ZAITON having every chance on his favoured fast ground. A failer in a hot race at Chepstow on his neeppearance, Zatoon has been at Ascot and Chatterham since, his Prestbury run behind Windward Ariom being on his wrong ground with a big weight. Better judged on his body-end win last season at Haydock in the hands of today's partner Warran Marston, Zahoon has a winning chance at these weights. As with Zadoon, Efficie contested the Ascot race won by Admiral's Well, His jumping let him down at Humbrigton when a narrow second to Wamdhar afterwends but this 20-1, nonce winner at Humbrigton hast season has a chance of gatting it right today with Jame Osborne booked. Saudden Spain is it from from his all-weather season and has a feather weight, which looks shout ngh when judged on his two seller wins at Cattench Last torm. Realthy never won lest season and books beatable at the weights despite a pleasing reappearance effort at Chepston, while soft ground looks beatable is to Toat Match. Allowanie has it to prove after the layoff, while Star Market was a lough winning placer lost season who improved to wan slightly better races though this trip could be a shade on the sharp side for him.

3.50 ASTAIRE & PARTNERS STOCKBROKERS NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3YO 2m Penalty Value £2,484

NORDIC BREEZE (RE) Glaicolm B Jones A Belley 10 12 T Kent PROPHETS RONDUR (12) (S A B Desence) P Hostern 10 12 M Hoster ROSCOMMON LAD (RE) GAles Sarah Hollenthead R Hollenthead 10 12 M W Martin (7)

800N TO BE WILD (Pond House Racing) M Pipe 10 7 _______ Lover

DISSOLVE (12) (Nessen Scheins Lid N Lampard 10 7 ______ Mir L Baler (7)

FOREST MILL (Non-Stop Promptions & Marketing Ltd) Spearing 10 7 ______ Lodder

1 CIRACUSA (IRE) (8) (D) (Tim Kelly J Mache 11 4 _____ 510 RAY SIVER (21) (D) (Roger Noroda) N Wingsow 11 4 ____ 10U YACHT (11) (C R Mugant) C Monn 11 4 ____

DALLESWINDOEN (fon Henderson) B Smart 10 12 CLARESWAN (RRC) (Claire and Beryl) M Fomptors 10 :

CLARRESHOWN (RRE) (Claire and Beryl) M Tomptons 10 12 . BLITE AUSTICE (Eine Recing Club) N Tinker 10 12

1000 PALLERSTON (USA) U C Frewell K Morgan 10 12

- 16 deciared - - TRNC: 3-1 Cinecias, 4-1 Propiets Honour, 5-1 Born To Be Wild, 8-1 Lord Pale

14-1 Yacht, 16-1 others 1994; Ar Shot & 10 12 A Maguire 100-30 (D Nicholson) 15 mm

good booking. Sailor Jim gets the weight and has twice won on this course

1994: Cash Chase 6 11 4 M Basman 16-1 (O Brenneri) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

1994: Mushaveswig 8 12 0 A Magaire 9-1 (D Nicholson) 10 ran

(CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f Penalty Value £4,644

Stakes in May was followed by four successive outings in Group One company, most recently in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, in which she finished fifth. The ground in Tokyo, which is rurely anything but firm, is also likely

to be against her. Yet she is nothing if not a bat-tler, and Fuchu's broad bends and long home run should suit her galloping style. "If you're Europe and America at great

CARLISLE

HYPERION

1.10 Canaan Valley 1.40 Lansborough 2.10 The Grey Monk 2.40 Abbot Of Furness (nb) 3.10

Right-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250yds.

Course is on Durdar road, 4m W of June 42 of \$6. Bus service from Cartiste status 2m. ADMISSION: Club, \$10; weekshys, \$12. CAR PARK: On calls \$3, remainder free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Scothy (1.40; & Preddir Mock (3.40) have been sent 251 miles by N Twengor-Toxics from Numbon, Gloucs.

1.10 MORTENSEN NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-

REPORT (217) Mass M Miligan 5 11 0 4P- KERNE (217) Mass M Miligan 5 11 0 IP-2 LANSBORDUGH (13) G Richards 5 11 0

Precipice Run 3.40 Moonshine Dancer

plenty of straight and plenty of room," Brittain said. "It's a bit uphill to the finish and a horse probled in a problem of the world's great racing powers.

Pure Grain could remind can really dig in." With John Reid holding Pure

Grain's reins, there will be no shortage of encouragement or experience from above. Reid partnered Dr Devious, who finished unplaced, in 1992 Now, ironically, Dr Devious is one of several stallions, imported from there turning in, you've got cost, who are slowly turning shelved because of the expense.

2.10 HEADS NOOK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f 110yds U4131-1 THE GREY MONN (13) G Retains 7 11 13 B Her

- 7 deciared -BETTING: 4-6 The Grey Monts, 7-2 Marra's Roscoa, 8-1 Solba, 10-1 Strong Measure, 12-1 Rocharisane, 20-1 My Gozoy, 25-1 Premier First

2.40 CALDBECK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,500 added 2m 1f

	F4242.2	ABBOT OF FURNESS (12) (BF) G RICTORS 11 11 12
		B Harding (3)
	1123-4	INCLETONIAN (27) B Wiscoson 6 11 6
	3611	SHARKASHKA (579) (D) M H Easterby 5 11 3
	03232 F	POX SPARROW (168) N Tirkler 5 11 2E Hosband (3)
		ONCE MORE FOR LUCK (220) Mrs M Reveley 4 11 1 P Nines
	04300/-0	REVE DE VALSE (USA) (12) Dens Smith 8 10 13 G Lee (3)
		TZZA (14) (D) W Storty 4 10 6
		STASH THE CASH (13) I Dier 4 10 3 Richard Great
- 8 declared -		
£	TTNG: 7-4	Abbet of Persons, 5-2 bzz. 5-1 Fox Sourrow, 6-1 Sharkash-

Ę.	3.10	KIT PATTERSON BIRTHDAY HANDICAF CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m
1	P/45103-	REJOINUS (266) (CD) J Quint 10 11 11
2	121-1P0	MELS MIJ (14) (CD) T Custivert 10 11 9
3	211-332	PRECIPICE BUN (49) (C) (D) G Richards 10 11 8. B Harding (3
4		STRONG APPROACH (17) (CD) / Charton 10 11 4 B Share
5	55 111	SUPER SANDY (208) (D) F Walton 8 11 4T Reser
		E declared

A JII MARIE MADE HATCHER HARRING HARR	A CONTRACT LOSS OF MERITAL PROPERTY IN THE PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PAR
1.10 DLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f	5 16254 ONCE MORE FOR LLICK (220) Mrs M Reveloy 4 11 1 P River
3-1 GENERAL CHAOS (117) (D) J J (TNeil 5 12 () A Rocho (3)	6 0430040 REVE DE VALSE (USA) (12) Denys Smath 8 10 13 G Lee (3)
40400-4 CANANI VALLEY (13) D Robertson 7 12 0	7 1-U41 TOZA (14) (D) W Storty 4 10 6
06F044- 6AR90N (USA) (224) J Haynes 6 11 10	8 00252-5 STASH THE CASH (13) I Dyer 4 10 3
122 RECLUSE (14) (C) Mass L Perrot 4 11 9T Jenis.	– 8 declared –
000-12 SALVO (19) Mrs M Sut. 4 11.9Mrs Swiers	BETTING: 7-4 Abbet of Portess, 5-2 bzz., 5-1 Fox Sperrow, 6-1 Starftest-
353-RU ORD GALLERY (14) T Der 6 11 9P Mines	ka, 7-1 Once More For Luck, 10-1 Stash The Cash, 12-1 others
7 00-35 REAL TONIC (19) G Richards 5 11 8	
OP-O CURRENT SPEECH (12) M H Eastedly 4 11 7 Wyer	3.10 KIT PATTERSON BIRTHDAY HANDICAP
O/03P- TOPSAWYER (219) Miss S Hall 7 11 4	3.10 MI PAILERSON BERTINAL REMOVAL
ID QIDP266- CRANGE RAMBLER (217) D Robertson 6 11 4 Jamine (7)	CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m
LI 005-500 CHARLISTIONA (IA) Doors 4 10 13 Richard Guest	1 P/45103- REJORUS (266) (CD) J Quan 10 11 11
12 063/0P-5 ANOTHER MEADON (20) J Deco. 7 10 9	2 121-1PO MELS MEU (14) (CD) T Cushbert 10 11 9
3 000-0 NR SLOAN (13) Golde 5 10 8	3 211-332 PRECIPICE BUN (48) (C) (D) G Rechards 10 11 8.8 Harding (3)
A F00064 HERBALIST (27) J Helens 6 10 7	4 44045-1 STRONG APPROACH (17) (CD) / Charlton 10 11 4B Sharey
5 PAFFOULL SPECTRE BROWN (205) F Jessy 5 10 0	5 50F111 SUPER SANDY (208) (0) F Weston 8 11 4T Reed
6 POO MESTER TROCK (217) L Lungo 5 10 0	- 5 declared -
7 /500/F/ CIRCLE BOY (573) W Storey 8 10 0 Supplie (3)	BETTRIC: 6-4 Strong Approach, 5-2 Precipice Run, 11-4 Super Sandy, 7-
- 17 declared -	1 Reiologs, 10-1 Mars 466
Gairmann: 10st. True n'eap weights: Mister Trick 9st 12th, Cacle Boy 9st 11th.	1 unionner' To-1 time still
ETTING: 7-2 Recluse, 9-2 General Clasos, 7-1 Salvo, 10-1 Canaan Val-	
sy, Another Mendow, Real Took, 12-1 others	3.40 ASPATRIA AMATEUR RIDERS HCA- 1151 A.E
THE PAR AND MONSOE LEIDEN C /OUAL POICE	(CLASS F) £2,800 added 2m 4f 1 is
1 40 EDF NR MUNICE HUNDLE (QUALIFIER)	•
1.40 EBF NH NOVICE HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds	1 2110-11 MOONSHINE DANCER (9) (CD) Mrs M Reveley 5 12 v
02-4 BANGABORRY (13) Mrs S Bramal 5 11 0 Mr X Whelen (5)	
O BRIGHT DESTINY (12) J Goldie 4 11 0	2 103320- DOCKMASTER (215) Mas M Million 411.13Max P Ft Hor (7)
0P032-0 BUNEES DREAM (13) J Heltens 5 11 0	3 PF51P-6 TEMPLE GARTH (167) (CD) P Beaumont 6 11 12_Mins A Farrell
13 FERMACK'S BROTHER (48) (8F) J L 5re 5 11 0 6 Harker	4 5-21203 RESIDE MUCK (12) (0) N Testor-Daves 5 11 9_Nor 14 Rimes (6)
O THE GAFFER (13) D Tophymer 4 11 0	5 30132; P ROSCOMMON JOE (14) 1 J O'Net 5 11 8.Mr L Corcoran (7)

QP-2 LANSBOROUGH (13) 6 Richards 5 11 0 ______P Carberry
Q40- ROBARA (220) S Leatherist 5 11 0 ______ A Leach
243-2 SCOTEV (ESL.) (9) N Texthor-Deacs 5 11 0 ______ Air M Rimel
Q- SHALLOW RIVER (200) R Colors 4 11 0 _____ A Sepple
Q40-0 SRIDDAM ROCK (17) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 0 _____ A Smith
52060- THE GALLOPHYMANIOR (157) Mrs M Reveley 5 11 0 P. News
ON KUDOS PRINCESS (12) Mrs A Magnitor 5 10 9 ____ T Jenks
— 14 declared — - 12 declared -BETTING: 5-2 Mooushine Dencer, 7-2 Freddle Muck, 6-1 Great Max, 7-1 Tall Moesure, 8-1 Declaraster, 10-1 Yacist Club, 14-1 others BETTENG: 9-4 Laneborough, 7-2 Scuthy, 5-1 Baugebonny, 10-1 Femicit's Brother, Keetreme, 12-1 Skiddaw Rock, 14-1 others

TAUNTON

HYPERION 1.00 Wayfarers Way 1.30 Yubralee 2.00 Andreiot 2.30 Up The Junction 3.00 Reve En Rose 3.30 The Black Monk

Right-hand course, Run-in of 150eds. Course is S of Lown on B3170. Taurion sention 2m. ADMISSION: Members \$11; Paddock \$8.50; Centre of Course \$4. CAR PARE: Centre of course \$3; rumanufer free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Larry's Lord (2.00)

won at Warwick on Thurnday.

LONG-DISTANCE BUNNERS: Glad She's Gene (1.00) has been sent 162 rdles by J Poulton from Lewes, E Sussex: Kreef (1.30) has been sent 155 miles by R Curtis from Woodcote, London. 1.00 ORCHARD FM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS

	• •
	BLAIR CASTLE (12) (D) G Baiting 4 11 10
	SYMBOL OF SUCCESS (11) D Williams 4 11 10G Hogen (
63	ALLOW (9) B Usessyn 4 11 ()
	ARTS TATUM R Harmon 4 11 0 6 McCos
02	COXMELL STEPTOE (18) Mess H Wests 5 11 0 F Table
_	GLAD SHE'S CONE J Poutton 4 11.0A Thornto
	HAMPIER HUNTER (12) C Edwinn 4 11 0 J A McCarti
ĸ	
	WAYFARERS WAY N Henderson 4 11 0 R Navanne
	DOUCE MAISON A lares 4 10 9 A Largecti (
)	DUALITY S Cole 4 10 9
L	MISS SPENT YOUTH R Hooges 4 10 9 Hearts (
) 7F3	MOOREJERT AIR (7) J Spearing 4 10 9,
	PLUM FANCY (188) R Frost 7 10 9 From
•	PRIDE OF HAYLING P Hedger 4 10 9B Powe
	- 14 declared -
	Hundrar Huster, 9-2 Blair Castle, 5-1 Wayfarers Way, A
tuer, 6-1 M	conlight Air, 10-1 Cornell Stepton, 14-1 others

1.30 ORCHARD FM JUVENILE NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 6) £2,400 added 2m 1f _J F TREE 0 JACKSTRCK (50) M Chemish 30 12 A Thomston
U MREEF (40) R Curts 10 12 D Mort
LEES PLEASE (23) A Curringtern-Brown 10 12 D Gradien
PHARAT REEF D Bundrel 10 12 D J Bunchel SHARP HOLLY / Senset 10 7.... SULABELL (26) R Houges 10 7 ...

- 14 decimal -BETTING: 8-4 Yabrako, 4-1 Alka internazional, 7-1 Caste Chico, 8-1 Noron, Jackstack, 14-1 others

2.00 ORCHARD FM CLASSIC HANDICAP CHAS (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3m		
1 124302 ANDRELOT (7) P Boxen 8 12 0		
2 15222-2 TOURSEN PRINCE (SA) (D) Miss H Knight 12 11 12 R Figure		
3 F114-32 DUHAKLOW LODGE (22) C R Barwell 8 11 7 D Bridgmets		
4 23F-0F5 SCOTONS (12) R O'Sulliven 9 10 3		
5 2113-F1 LARRY'S LORD (7) P Nichols 6 10 2		
6 /02F13- RULL OF OATS (250) Mass H knusts 9 10 1 F Tide		
7 5P11F4 BRANFRON BERTIE (174) D Chappel 6 10 0		
BETTING: 2-1 Larry's Lord, 7-2 Audreiot, 9-2 Toureen Prince, 5-1 Feb 0 Cats, 8-1 Duhallow Lodge, Brimpton Bertle, 14-1 Scotoni		

2.30 ORCHARD FM NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS B) £7,000 added 2m 1f

3.00 ORCHARD FM NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C)

_	T TOTOUR GROEN SIN SI
1 06	P: BROWN ROBBER (608) Mrs R Henderson 7 11 4 D Switter
2 24-0	3 DECISIVE SPICE (37) R Alner 6 11 4W MicFarland
3 P/	- DORKONG RANGER (215) Mess H Knept 10 11 4 R Fatract
4 15/410	- FALMOUTH BAY (251) S Sherwood 5 11 4
5 04/02P	P GRAMSCI (54) Mis M Jones 7 11 4 D Byrne
6 54423	A MARENNA GALE (13) N Meshel 7 11 4
7 13063	- MR PICKPOCKET (236) Miss H Mouth, 7 11 4
8 0/0060	- PAGET (204) P Notots 8 11 4
	1 REVE EN ROSE (12) M McMilan 9 11 4
10 05163	2 SMILING CHIEF (9) R Hodges 7 11 4 A Tory
	3 SOPHISM (11) M Pipe 6 11 4
12 4100-6	O WASE STATEMENT (26) G Balding 6 11 4
	- 12 declared -
BETTING: 4	1 Rave En Rose, 9-2 Paget, Palmouth Bay, 5-1 Mr Pickpocket,

8-1 Maremma Gale, Sophism, 10-1 Gramsci, 12-1 others

3.30 ORCHARD FM HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m 3f 110yds

BETUNG: 11-4 The Black Monk, 7-2 Secret Four, 4-1 River Island, 9-2 Have A Nightonp, Chickshiddy, 8-1 Politican, 18-1 others

RACING RESULTS

FORM GUIDE

Martin Pipe's Chaprass won a bumper at Chepstow yesterday when returning from a long layoff and BORN TO BE WILD could be good enough on her hundles debut after being claimed out of Bill Turner's stable after firsthing scont in Mill Darcer in a 17-runner seller at Laicester in September. Claimseum, a three-times winner for Stuart Williams on the level and now with Mark Tompkins, is enother interesting newcomer, along with Elite Jestice, for whom Nigel Tinker hes booked Jamie Osborne. A penalty may find out Wetherby debut winner Ciracuse, but Prophets Hoseour, second to Done Well at Ayr on his hundles debut, and fast-ground Plat Wither (71) Nordic Breeze can easily be considered.

Tota: £2.90; £1.80, £6.50, £13.60. Dual Forecast: £38.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £38.82. Tho: £203.70 - part won. Pool of £229.57 comed forward to Uncoverter 3.20 to WINDSOR 1.00: 1. MALWOOD CASTLE (Mr P Hen-ley) 13-8 fav; 2. Credon 25-1: 3. Joje 50-1. 15 ran. 3, 4. (R Alner, Standford Forum).



* THE INDEPENDENT Horse Racing Results 0839 - 111 171

1.30: 1. ZAMBEZI SPIRIT (D Byrne) 6-1; 1.307.1. ZAMBSEZI SPIRRI (D BJMB) 6-1; 2. Call Me River 33-1; 3. Tommy-Gim 14-1. 5 rsn. 4-5 fav Fast Run (4th). 11, dist. (Mrs Menta Jones, Lambourn). Toter £10.30; £2.60, £2.50. DP. £34.10. CSF: £73.28, NR:

ections BORN TO BE WILD

2.00; 1. FORTUNES COURSE (G Liptori) 2.00: 1. PORTONES CONTROL OF JUNE 11-2; 2. Coethers Stretdings 8-1; 3. Pampered Guest 6-4 fav. 10 nan. 24a, 24a U Nrg. Swindon). Total: £8.70; £2.20. £1.40, £1.40. DF: £26.10. GSF: £45.22. Theast £86.66. This: £26.40.

2.30: 1. THE CARROT MAN (J R Kavanagh)
3-1; 2. Driving Force 9-2; 3. Petraser 201. 8 ras. 7-4 fav No Light (fell). 20, 6. (P Winkworth, Dunsfold). Tota: £4.20; £1.80, £2.20, £2.50. OP: £4.70. CSP: £1.69. Tricast £213.97. The £18.30. NR: Esening Rain. 3.00: 1 NOVA RUN (I R Keneregh) 4-5 tax; 2. Oldhill Wood 7-2; 3. El Froddle 9-1. 7 ran. 8, rs. (N Henderson, Lambourn). Totac £2.10: £1.50, £2.30. Duel Forecast £5.30. CSF: £4.57.

3.30: 1. SASSIVER (A Bates) 5-1; 2. Selng 7-1; 3. Lucayan Cay 15-8 tav. 9 ran. 4, hri. (P Melleway, Newmanies). Total £5.90; £1.80, £1.90, £1.20. DF: £25.40. CSF: £38.21. Tricest: £81.82. Trio: £10.40. Beclapot: Not won. Pool of £10,310.76; car-ned forward to Ustawayer today. natural: £13.70. Placepot: £5,025.10.

1.20; 1. FBLE CONCORD (W Marston) 9: 2: 2. Really A Reseal 9-2; 3. Float Gentary 11-2. 9 ran, 11-4 fav Over The Pole (4th). 3, 7. (Mrs J Pirman, Upper Lambourn). Tebe: £5.60; £2.20, £1.90, £1.30, DF. £14.60. CSF: £22.60. Titzest: £100.94. Tno: £15.60.

1.50: 1. CASSIO'S BOY (D Waish) 20-1; 2. Megamusch 50-1; 3. Bishops Cas-tie 4-1. 13 ran. 7-2 fav New Tribe (pulled up). 1, 13. (R Eckley, Kington). Tota: £39.60; £5.10, £14.40, £1.60. DF: £279.70. CSF: £568.54. Trio: not won.

2.50: 1. SEEX THE FAITH (B Powel) 33-1; 2. Challenger De Luc 5-1; 3. Jesob's Wife 12-1. 14 res. 10-11 fev Trying Again (4th). Hd, hd. (M Sheppard, Ledbury). Totac £59.80; £7.90, £1.90, £1.60. DF: £161.60. CSF: £174.64. This: £272.60. 3.20: 1. DICTUM (Mr M Rmet) 7-2; 2. Strel Moss 7-1; 3. Pe D'Or 10-11 fav. 12 ran. 15, 2. (N Twiston-Daves, Chetterham). Toter £4.70; £1.80, £1.70, £1.10, Dr. £47.20. CSF: £28.05 Tror. £8.00. NR: Gracefield.

2.20; 1. KARAR (D O'Sulvan) 12-1; 2. Prisce of Salerno 14-1; 3. Royal Piper 9-1; 4. Snowy Lane 20-1. 18 ran. 7-1 fav lying tyes (pulled up). 6, 7. (R Rowe, Somragion). Totas: £13.10; £2.80, £4.50, £2.50, £4.70. DF: £195.30. CSF: £158.38. Tricast: £1.455.76, Tric: £526.60. HEXHAM 1.10: 1. 1RISH GENT (R Supple) 12-1; 2. hy House 11-8 far, 3. Wibby Benk 14-1, 15 ran. 6, 25. (P Besumont, Brandsty). Total: £19-0; £4.00, £1.80, £3.40. Dual Forecast; £20.50. Computer Straight Forecast; £27.85, Trio: £64.60.

1.40: 1. CORSTON RAMBO (T Rect) 9-2 g-tay; 2. Hedden Hangh 10-1; 3. Goldening 9-2 g-tay. 13 man. 6, Ind. fl. Lungs, Carnthersport), Totate 66, 70: £1-60, 2-23, £1-60, DF £29.90. CSF: £45.69. Tricast: £193.41. Tric. £78.30. 2.10: 1. FORBIDDEN TIME (T Reed) 4-6 tav; 2. Earlymorning Light 7-2; 3. Chief Raider 14-1. 9 ran. 44, 15. (L Lungo, Car-

rutherstown). Tota: £1.70; £1.10, £1.20, £4.40, DF: £2.50, CSF: £3.97. Trio: £19.60. 3.50; 1. CHAPRASSI U Lower) 6-1; 2. Dreem Ride 20-1; 3. Red Blazor 4-9 fav. 11 ma. 3v/s. 1v. M Ppc, Wellingtoni, Totas: E8.50; 12.40, £2.00. £1.30. DF: £63.30. CSF: £95.44. NR: Better Than Bills. Quadpot: £49.30. Placepot: £261.00. 2,40: 1. RACHAEL'S OWEN (L Wyer) 5-1; 2. Joynter 4-1; 3. Topothenorthracing 7-2; I-2, Joynter 4-1; 3. Topothenorthracing 7-2; I-3a, 10 mm, 7-2; I-3a, Cadeaux Premise, 10, 10, IT Dyer, Durdee), Totas £11.80; £1.80, £ 3.10: 1. EASBY JOKER (Mr C Bonner)

4-1; 2. Doxford Had 20-1; 3. Heathyles 10-1, 11 ras. 2-1 tay Kilimor Lad. 10, 5. IS Kettlewell, Middlehemi, Teter £6.80; £1,70, £3.00, £2.70. DF: £106.30. CSF: £71.07. Tricast: £692.33. Tho: £104.20. 3.40: 1. NORDUC PRINCE (R Garith) 5-1; 2. The Stitcher 10-1; 3. Highboath 12-1, 19 ran. 2-1 fav Calemish Dan. 4, 34s. (T Tate, Tatcassen, Totes: £2.96; £2.10, £3.50, £4.10. DF: £32.00, CSF: £63.31 Trot: £49.40.

Commentary. 0839 - 111 175 : Bendigmen Mehrina 971 485 696

CHEPSTOW 12.50: 1. PHARAMEAR (W Merson) 9-2; 2. Buckhouse Boy 5-1; 3. Vistage Claret 12-1; 15 rat. 5-2 for Eulogy (fell), 3, 25. (D Nicholson, Temple Quiring), Totes: £5.60; 51.80, £1.50, £3.20, DF: £9.40, CSF: £28.15. Trio: £31.80, NR: Bucket Of Gold. Quadpot: £49.30. Placepot: £261.00. Place 5: £ 135.74. Place 6: £ 284.57.

Quadpot: Not won. Pool of £36.40 carried forward to Uttoseter today.

Placepot: £48.60.

We cannot be sure how pay-per-view would take shape here but football could be way off the mark in considering its potential

At an advanced stage in this line of work it is essential to reject the pre-tentious notion of having seen and done it all before and that nothing can come along to startle toilers of

long experience.
What I have in mind is information received from New York yesterday concerning response to the contest Mike Tyson undertook against Peter McNeeley in Las Vegas in August upon his return to the ring after three

Even allowing for the portents of renewed violence raised by Tyson's comeback, an astonishing fact is that the fight claimed 26 per cent - \$96m (£62m) - of the total gross revenue generated in the US until then this year by pay-per-view television, and 48 per cent of all returns in boxing.

One that Tyson is, irrefutably, the biggest drawing card in sport; the other that pay-per-view transmis-sions are not necessarily the bullionpilers people connected with British sport, especially football, appear to

A few years ago, thoughts about pay-per-view occupied most of a ong conversation I had in New York with an old acquaintance, Bobby Goodman, when he was director of boxing at Madison Square Garden. "What many fail to realise about pay-per-view is that you can just as easily show a loss as turn a profit," he said. "That applies as much to every form of

Two conclusions can be reached. boxing. If the subscribers back off you are in deep trouble.

British viewers will eventually have to pay for selected entertainment how many recent sports events would have persuaded them to lace an order? Doubtless, had it been available, Tyson versus McNeeley. Eric Cantona's return from suspension. Because of national fascination, probably a few matches in the Premiership Frank Bruno versus Oliver Mc-Call. Maybe some games from the European competitions.

As we cannot be sure how payper-view would take shape here there is not much point in speculaentertainment - pop concerts, pro-fessional wrestling - as it does to be way off the mark in considering tion, but football in particular could



its potential. Apart from any other consideration, there is a geo-graphical problem. What appeals in Manchester, Liverpool and Newcastle does not necessarily excite interest in London.

If things were in place, which of

course they won't be, you could probably sell Frank Bruno's de-fence of the World Boxing Council championship, scheduled for 16 March next year in Las Vegas, without trying.

The projected gross viewing figure for three possible Tyson fights next year rises to 56 per cent of the total pay-per-view returns from boxing. Of those who bought the bout against McNeeley, 39 per cent were new viewers. Some social significance is drawn from the fact that

Above all else, those figures emasise the extent of world-wide fascination with Tyson. The confident conclusion of Tyson's pay-per-view promoters, Showtime, is that if he had not pulled out of the contest

against Buster Mathis Inr on 4 November that was going out free on the Fox network, their main rivals, Home Box Office would have taken a beating with Riddick Bowe versus Evander Holyfield on the same night. As it was HBO reached 550,000 homes, bringing in

around \$21m. Assuming that the New Jersey Gaming Board can be persuaded not to raise objections on the grounds of Don King's indictment in their state for insurance fraud, Tyson will finally get around to fighting Mathis on 16 December in Atlantic

It will be promoted by Donald Trump in alliance with a consortium of Atlantic City casinos and go out on Fox, who were thought to have

put up more than \$10m for the original date.

The sort of money involved has long since taken heavyweight box-ing beyond any normal fiscal considerations in sport. "If Tyson's comeback goes according to plan, his earnings second time around could rise way beyond \$100m," a representative of Showtime said this

When prominent in helping Sugar Ray Leonard to surpass \$100m in ring earnings, the Wash-ington lawyer, Mike Traynor, fore-cast that the advance of pay-per-view television ensured that a similar figure would eventually come the way of a fighter from one contest. It didn't take much to work out that he had Tyson in mind.

McRae in control of his destiny

Derick Allsop reflects on an ability to tame his wilder streak that made all the difference for the world rally champion

They will tell you Colin McRae matured and found that differwas born to rally, but no one is born to win and in rallying, especially, Britain has spawned worthy competitors rather than champions. Until Colin McRae.

He has elevated himself above the rest, not only because of his natural devastating pace but because he had the nous to channel that talent. The wayside is littered with the broken ambitions of the mercurial. Winners are made of sterner, more consistent stuff.

McRae's father, Jimmy, was an outstanding rally driver. He won the British championship five times and he recognised in Colin, at a very early age, the extra dimension of a potential champion. Others, like Malcolm Wilson, were less convinced.

Wilson had served his time as Britain's "latest hope", only to stumble in the wake of the Scandinavians and Finns, and then the charismatic Spaniard Carlos Sainz. Wilson, according to seasoned observers, lacked the added commitment and concentration required to harness his gifts. Mistakes at critical moments cost rallys and

championships. McRae, according to Wilson, also lacked the consistency to beat the best over the marathon course of a world championship season. He, too, made mistakes at critical moments.

"But I think Colin has

ence," Wilson now says. "He's learned how to judge a rally and judge a championship. No one doubted his speed. That's always been obvious. But the real their speed and when to settle for points rather than take un-

McRae's pace these past four days has been too much for Sainz and the rest, and after losing almost two minutes with a puncture in Kielder he had to draw on that most fundamental of qualities. But it was always controlled, always assured, and, to Sainz's dismay, always irresistible.

Sainz had to accept that and ultimately his heart was broken. The Scot extended his lead on the final day with the flourish of a champion. He is not only Britain's first world rally champion, but at 27, the youngest. Around the time of the in-

augural world rally cham-pionship, in 1979, Colin McRae began satisfying his curiosity in motor sport on a motor bike. He began winning motocross races and the seeds of an obsession

He moved to four wheels in 1986 and his progress was again swift. Come his third season he was enjoying major success in British and Scottish competitions. In 1990 he was runner-up in the British Open championship and in each of the



following two years he was British champion.

His advance remained a family affair. Mother and father were usually out there in the forests. proffering advice and support. A younger brother, Alister, would also build a rallying career, and another son, Stuart, played his part as caterer.

By now, however, Colin was

making his presence felt on the world scene. He led the RAC rally in 1992 and 1993, but each time had to retire after crashes. Another worthy Brit, another nearly man, or so it seemed.

At last year's Network Q RAC rally, McRae took the lead again and stayed the course. He was the first British winner of the event since Roger Clark in

1976. His next objective was the world championship. Despite problems early in the season, victory in New Zealand revived his aspirations.

Wilson believes the significant rally in McRae's season was the Australian, where he resisted any urge to reach out for an improbable win and settled for sec-ond place. "That was the turning

point," Wilson suggests. It certainly convinced me he was ready for the championship. He is now not only the quickest out

there, he is the complete driver." McRae acknowledges that transformation. "I've even calmed down away from rallying" said McRae, who has long sought recreation in adventurous and even wild pursuits such Photograph: David Ashdown

as extreme skiing and water skiing. "I'm not as crazy as I was." He already has a pad in Monte Carlo and further wealth will doubtless come his way. Some things, though, do not change. Like his taste for "a good bash". Last night he abandoned his Subaru Impreza with only one intention: to have the

biggest party of all time.

Italian official banned for life

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

An official has been banned for life and two others have been disciplined by the Italian fed-eration for irregularities which caused a world-record long jump by Ivan Pedroso to be

The Cuban jumped 8.96 metres in Sestriere on 29 July. with the wind assistance apparently inside the legal limit at 1.2 metres per second. But, to Cuban fury, the Italian feder-ation refused to submit the mark for ratification after film showed an official - Luciano Gemello - standing in front of the wind gauge during the

Gemelio, a former pole vaulter, was banned for life and two event judges, Paolo Gugliemi and Denis Morino, were suspended for three years.

Of 60 jumps in the long jump and triple jump events at the high-altitude meeting, only four were registered as within the legal wind speed limit, and three of those were Pedroso's. Federation sources said technical experts using wind-tunnel data had estimated the true speed at between three and five

metres per second.
Officials said that the case would be referred as a for mality to the International Amateur Athletic Federation council, and that the record of 8.95m, set by the American Mike Powell in Tokyo in 1991,

would stand. The Italian federation won praise from several Italian newspapers for the findings of the inquiry, though not for the investigation's speed.

Ramprakash facing stiff competition from Crawley

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Bloemfontein

It is now one month and five days since England arrived in South Africa, and the sense of achievement is a touch short of overwhelming. If time really does fly when you are having fun, then England, mentally at any rate, are still in the

Heathrow departure lounge. Washed out in the opening Test match, and with little meaningful match practice behind them, England filled their time vesterday with about three hours fielding practice (the nets were things to do on a grey afternoon

of the day waiting for bedtime. Today, weather permitting, they find themselves with a cricketers - desperate for a game. Or in this case (the need to keep everyone involved hav-Orange Free State into a sepa-

rate 50-over bash) two games. The loss to the weather of three consecutive Test match days, thought to be unique in South Africa, means that England will not be thinking too much about altering their side for next week's second Test in Johannesburg, particularly as their waterlogged), about 30 seconds ticking off a list of interesting a single delivery in the series. bowlers have yet to send down in Bioemfontein, and the rest No 3 batting position is again

medical condition almost unknown in modern professional ing prompted them to alter the fourth day of the match against

However, the problematical

prakash's failure in Pretoria, and while Raymond Illingworth is a man of many virtues, patience is not thought to be among them. In which case, the longstanding tradition of giving a player at least two chances may not necessarily apply here.
John Crawley, like Ram-

prakash, has not exactly seized the chances that have come his way, but he has had fewer of them, and there are also grounds for suspecting that, of the two of them. Crawley might just have the greater big match

Ramprakash arguably has more talent than any batsman currently playing English cricket, but he averages less than 18 in the same number of Test matches, and while he has been unfairly

under scrutiny after Mark Ram- treated in terms of continuity, not even Australia are prepared to wait indefinitely for a fruit to ripen. Runs for Crawley in Bloemfontein may, therefore, be bad news for Ramprakash.

There are, though, two different arguments over Craw-ley's temperament. He came in to join Mike Atherton in the Sydnev Test last winter with England, having lost the opening two matches of the series, in another dire mess at 20 for 3, and made 72 in a life-saving 174 partnership.

On the other hand, having been initially passed over last summer for the likes of Ram-prakash and Jason Gallian, Craw-ley was recalled for the final two Tests against the West Indies, and twice lost his off stump offering no stroke to Courtney Walsh. Crawley, having followed the

same path as Atherton through Manchester Grammar School, Cambridge and Lancashire, was not so long ago touted as Atherton's natural successor as England captain, but he probably only made this tour on a split decision in selection.

His urge to succeed, though, is no less than the hyper-dedi-cated Ramprakash. Since being identified in Australia as only slightly more mobile in the field than a sumo wrestler, Crawley has shed almost three stones in weight (largely on a coffee and fags diet) and has worked hard to extend his range of shot beyond the on-side bias which made him a comparatively easy batsman for a topclass attack to tie down.

Illingworth would ideally like

to play only five specialist bats-

men in this series, with Jack Russell at No 6, which would leave no place for either Ramprakash or Crawley. However, as Illy cannot yet quite bring himself to trust his top five to make enough runs, Bloemfontein is a pivotal

match for both of them. The next three days may also go some way towards deciding whether Devon Malcolm's role on this tour will eventually extend to something more meaningful than the team mascot. South African cricket officials are hoping for Malcolm to become an inspirational role model for young blacks, but so far you can almost hear the young blacks saying: "We already know how to pour drinks for white people, so maybe we'll stick to soccer.

There may be something for

pitch, which is generally good for batting but also rewards the quicker bowlers with a bit of bounce, and Allan Donald who is not playing here - has dented more than a few helmets on his home ground.

First of all, though, the electrical storms having followed the England team here from Johannesburg, the tourists need some harder evidence that Nelson Mandela renamed South Africa the Rainbow Nation for its newly enlightened politics rather than the fact that he spends most of his time wading around in galoshes.

ENGLAND (v Grange Free State, Bloom-forders; three-day game starting today and one-day 80-over game on Sanday); M A Advance (cast), A J Stewart twick, M R Remonstash, G P Thompe, R A Smith, J P Crewley, D G Cont., P J Martin, M C Hott, R K Bargerorth, D E Matchin.

William Hill award won by Feinstein

Sports books

This year's William Hill Sports Book of the Year was won by the American author John Feinstein for A Good Walk Spoiled which is published by Little, Brown.

It is the first time in the seven years of the award that a book about golf has won. Feinstein wins £5,000, plus a free £500 bet, for his book about the inside world of the American golf circuit.

OTHER BOOKS SHORT-LISTED: Left Foot Forward by Gary Nelson (Head-fine), The Far Comer by Hany Pearison (Little, Brown), Bull by Howard Wright (Timeform), The Prizelighters by Ariene Schulman (Virgin) and Out of Bounds by Lauren St. John (Transworld).



The Royal Navy is recruiting now.

and walcome completes and depthesizes hear all others proper.

NAVY

Broadly yet wheels have been a 18 regulated for the past five post. Join the Navy. Call 0345 300 123. net cord judge, may soon be removed from the line of fire and replaced by technology. At Wimbledon and elsewhere there would be no more gritting of teeth and hoping not to be belted in the ear by a stray shot or knocked asunder by a careering player.

That endangered species, the

A sensor system developed in Germany has successfully completed a series of trials at tournaments on the men's international circuit, starting with the grass-court event in Halle in June and culminating at last week's ATP Tour Championship in Frankfurt.

Alan Mills, the Wimbledon referee, declared the system to have "worked beautifully" when officiating at the Eurocard Open in Essen recently.

John Roberts on the latest step in the march of tennis technology

cable is fitted to a hand control operated by the umpire, who presses a button when the server tosses the ball and releases it after the ball has crossed the net. A beep sounds if the ball touches the net cord.

Devised and manufactured by the Brauer brothers, who moved from east Germany to the Black Forest region, the machine has been fostered for the past two years by their compatriot Rudi Berger, one of the world's leading umpires.
The system is called Trinity,
Berger explained, because of

Monitoring a net cord can be a high-risk pastime, especially Small sensors are placed at the three parties it was de-each end of the net and a signed to help: "The umpire, 137mph induce reflex returns of

No job protection; net cord judges are on their way out

Cyclops has company as machine moves to replace net cord judge

the players, and somebody else a similar velocity. Helmets were who sits at the net and gets

used at the United States Open last year, but obviating the need for a person to put his or her neck on the line is a preferred option.

The absence of a human presence at the net has raised not the slightest protest from the players during the experiments conducted so far "When the machine beeps the players seem to accept that the ball has made contact with the net cord," Berger said. "They don't raise their hands to show that the ball was at least a foot above the net, like

Wimbledon and the three other Grand Slam tournaments are showing a keen interest in Trinity, which could become as commonplace as Cyclops, the "magic eye" service-line machine invented 15 years ago

by a Briton, Bill Carlton. Cyclops, while prone to phantom beeps if the control said to an umpire, "I don't want monitored service net cords.

to sound paranoid, but that machine knows who I am." Berger emphasised that Trin-ity's bleep is not as loud as Cyclops's and that the tone is different. "We wouldn't want any similarity. The players might become very unset if they heard a sound which reminded them that they had just served a fault."

Not all technological innovations have proved successful. TEL, an electronic line-calling system, was abandoned on the eve of the 1993 United States Open after metal objects caused the device to beep. Player pressure persuaded

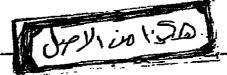
officials to revise their original plan to use a skeleton crew of only three judges with an umbutton is pressed at the wrong moment, has prevailed, although John McEuroe once

only called Judges with an only button is pressed at the wrong pire on the four wired courts instead of the customary 10.

One of the trinity would have

wes boot w

Clark is



Collymore unable to make his mark

MIKE ROWBOTTOM West Ham United Liverpool

Two sides went nowhere fast at Upton Park last night, although none of the 24,324 spectators present complained. The action was unrelenting and entertaining, but Liverpool, discomfited perhaps by the weekend's Merseyside defeat, were like eloquent speakers who failed to complete a sentence. West Ham, striving for a voice, fluffed

the few lines they were given. The home side took to the field buoyed by Saturday's 3-1 win at Bolton and eager to record only their second home win, following their defeat of Liverpool's neighbours, Ever-

ton, in September.
They began brightly enough, but in a lively opening period it was Liverpool - and notably Stan Collymore, brought in for the injured Ian Rush - who made the most impact. Collymore, whose awkwardness and strength on the ball created

fence from the start, might conceivably have had a hat-trick in the first quarter of an hour.

Liverpool began to assume such control that when Robbie Fowler skewed the ball into touch after 25 minutes, a huge sigh of relief went round the

On the half-hour, the visitors went more seriously awry as David James, their 6ft 5in goalkeeper, raced out of his box to clear the ball and ended up sending West Ham's Keith Rowland flying to the ground in-stead. James was lucky to escape with a booking.

The incident seemed to rattle Liverpool for a while and six minutes later the West Ham defender Steve Potts nearly scored what would have been only his second goal in five years with a shot from 35 yards.

lan Bishop tried soon after from similar range and saw his deflected shot pass narrowly over the bar. Two minutes from the break, Fowler miscued an even clearer chance at the near post after Steve McManaman had played the ball in. Liverpool resumed control

after the break and after 53 min-

utes, West Ham's veteran de-fender, Alvin Martin, sudden-ly looked older than his 37 years, as his header under pressure spun towards his own goal before being hacked clear. Liverpool should have con-

verted their superiority on the hour as after another smoothly logical transfer of the ball, they found Collymore as the spare man on the right. He should have done better than . blasting the ball wide. For all the valiant efforts of

local boy Danny Williamson in midfield, it looked as if West Ham needed a stroke of luck to score. They nearly had it after 65 minutes, when Iain Dowie got a leg to Rowland's cross and the ball flew dangerously close to the angle of post and bar. When McManaman tried to

dribble through the entire home defence 10 minutes from time, there was more than a touch of desperation about his efforts. West Hem United (3-5-2): Mildosko; Pott Martin, Reper: Parkes, Bishop, Hughe Williamson, Rowland; Dowle, Coriee, Subset tutes not used: Breacher, Slater, Seeliny (M



West Ham's Tony Cottee finds his way barred by Phil Babb (right) and Jason McAteer

Sheer simplicity for Everton

Chelsea's cause advanced by Newton

An extraordinary row before Dominquez three as Pontypridd the start must have left the led 15-9 at the interval. Jenkins,

sponsors wondering whether who also hit the post with yet

they had entered a brave new another attempt, was assisted in commercial world or amateur his role by Italian indiscipline.

GUY HODGSON

Everton Queen's Park Rangers

November does things for Everton. Last year they lit the blue touch paper at this time of the year and headed upwards and a third consecutive victory sug-gests more of the same could be on the way. Certainly Joe Royle's claim that his side could make the Uefa Cup places suddenly does not look so daft.

Last night they casually that travelled a full 50 yards be-brushed aside a QPR team fore landing behind Steve Yates

bone china. Indeed if you could was that they did not do a thorough demolition job, scoring only through Graham Stuart and Paul Rideout.

One of Everton's qualities is their ability to suddenly burst out of their their prosaic image with a flash of brilliance and certainly their 18th-minute goal was about as good as you can

Anders Limpar hit a wonderful pass from the left flank

the precision of the ball that the quibble about Everton at all it

Everton striker had merely to extend a boot to lob it over Juergen Sommer. It was pure Route One but glorious for it.

There was a simplicity, too, about the second goal, the ball travelling from Sommer's clearance and back into the QPR goal with two touches. Joe Parkinson headed forward and Rideout beat Sommer from 20 yards with a low half-volley.

Rangers, meanwhile, had managed only two chances by half-time, volleys from Trevor Sinclair and Matthew Brazier

by Southall.

The match appeared won and Everton assumed a casualness after the interval that allowed QPR to gain an ascendancy that had looked beyond them. Encouraged, the visitors brought on Daniele Dichio to lead their line which gave them a focal point for their attacks, the impression was, however, that it was too late. Beeton (4-4-2): Southalt, Jackson, Short, Wat-son, Unsworth; Kancheliskis, Ebbrell, Parkin-son, Limpar; Raisous, Suart. Sobiatiusias sot used: Hinchcliffe, Home, Amokachi. Queen's Parik Rangers (4-4-2): Sommer; Resdy, Yates, Maddin, Chellis (McConeld, 82); Immae Raisker Zellis Reszler (2018) Strektis

Ancona's coach says he will sue

Ancona's coach, Massimo Cacciatori, said from his hospital bed that he will sue Birmingham City players who, he alleges, badly beat him last week during a brawl following the clubs' Anglo-Italian Cup match, which Birmingham won 2-1.

The Ancona deputy prosecutor, Maria Inzitari, has begun an investigation into the case. Cacciatori suffered serious facial injuries that he claims were caused by being punched and kicked in the dressing-

In Rome's sports daily Comere dello Sport yesterday, Caccia-tori alleged that Liam Daish ounched him in the face and that at least five other players joined Daish in kicking him as he fell. The coach, who has a broken cheek and a gash under the left eye, was quoted as saying: "It was a wild beating. I was punched and kicked for about 30 seconds." Daish has denied involvement.

A magistrate yesterday banned from all football grounds for five years the spectator who contronted goalkeeper Kevin Pressman on the pitch during tion for money to pay the Sheffield Wednesday's Coca- players. denied making a death threat. at any club I've been at. But re-session.

Bassett in attack on Blades 'apathy'

GUY HODGSON

Dave Bassett's frustration with tor is interested, and the playthe financial problems at Sheffield United boiled over yesterday and probably her-alded the end of his time at Bramall Lane. His position is less tenable than at any time since he became manager in

"It's a ridiculous situation." he said. "Nobody cares or worries about what's going on here. I have never been at a club where absolutely nobody cares at all, It's definitely the most difficult situation I have had as a

manager."

Bassett has been provoked by a number problems, not least of which is the team's lowly position in the First Division. A proposed takeover by the Manchester businessman Mike McDonald is dragging on, work is yet to start on a new stand and the finances of the club are in such a delicate position that they have twice had to go to the Proional pootdaliets. Associa

Mark Tainton, whose outside-

half place has gone to Thomas,

to kick penalties. This he did

three times in the first half,

with them, other than to turn to and three by Gillingham, and

ally what can you expect? Eight weeks into a takeover there's no stand and no money. No direcers can't even be paid. The club has apathy written all over it and the players are being dragged

down by it."
The Blades have lost 11 of their 17 League matches and gates are below 10,000.

Stan Collymore's fight to extract £575,000 from Nottingham Forest over his record £8.5m transfer to Liverpool has been put on hold after Forest pro-duced new evidence they believe will prove he engineered the Collymore claims Forest owe

him five per cent of that fee plus a £150,000 loyalty bonus. His case is that he did not ask for a transfer in writing. An inde-pendent tribunal scheduled for today has been postponed. Milwall have signed the Watford right-back Gerard Lavin, 21, for £500,000.

The Colombian internaterday. The 23-year-old defender, who played for Club Cola Cup match at Millwall last "The spirit is the worst I have month. Kenneth Humphries adever known it in my time here," bullets as he was leaving home mitted shouting at Pressman but he said. "It's the worst it's been for an early-morning training

dazzled by youth culture

Glenn Moore on a night that finally came right for **Nottingham Forest**

Success in European football usually requires the sort of wisdom and resilience only gained through experience. Sometimes, however, "the naïvety of youth" can make the difference. It did for Nottingham Forest in their Uefa Cup third-round first-leg tie against Olympique Lyonnais on Tuesday. "The naïvety of youth" was Frank Clark's description of the quality Paul McGregor and Bobby Howe brought to his team just as it appeared they would have to settle for a goalless draw at

the City Ground.

It was a quality which had been lacking in Forest's approach play. While organisation is a prerequisite of good defending it does not always ap-Roy unfit and the imaginative Lars Bohinen and unpredictable Stan Collymore else-

where, were too obvious. Enter McGregor, 20 and yet to start for Forest, and Howe, 22 and with just two full appearances, both more than a year ago. They had pace, enthusiasm and, most importantly, an absence of fear. Howe won a penalty and McGregor scored from it, following up after Stuart Pearce's shot had been blocked.

Their success suggested Forest's strength in depth was not as thin as had been feared. Such has been the side's consistency few young players had been given a chance in recent seasons - only one of the starting XI was under 24 and that was Chris Bart-Wlliams, arguably the most experienced 21-year-old in the game.

"We do have some good young players at the club," Clark added. "I have been looking to reduce the squad to give them opportunities. McGregor's best position is wide right and if it was not for Steve Stone he would have been in the team before now. He is quick and scores goals.

"Howe was an England youth international who has not progressed as quickly as he should have. I sent him on loan to Kettering last year, to be under Graham Carr. He needed someone to bring him down to earth and show him what life was all about. Graham is not known for tional Albeiro Pico Hernandez his subtlety in dealing with 'less

Clark said Howe's best position was "just behind the centreforward, where Bryan Roy plays". Roy had a cartilage operation yesterday which may give Howe (who prefers Bobby to his given name of Stephen) the chance to play in Monday's game with Manchester United. However, come the second

leg in 12 days' time, Clark is likely to prefer experience and play just Jason Lee, who should have recovered from a thigh injury, in attack. A draw will take Forest through but it will not be easy. Lyon looked dangerous at times; their predominantly young team (six players under 24) pushed forward in numbers and shot on sight. More will certainly be heard of the promising striking pair, Florian Maurice, 21, and the teenaged

Ludovic Giuly.

Forest are England's only remaining European represen-tatives but Clark said: "That does not any mean extra pressure for us. If we do well it will raise the profile of Nottingham Forest but it will not alter people's perception of English football. England would need to win, or at least do well, in Euro '96 to do that."

side were still seething followleast there was relief on the outline spending plans. This internecine strife at the finally dispatched with a goal Bridge seemed to translate itself award which earned Mark Stein three minutes from time.

Chelsea's troubles were confined to their directors last night. The boardroom battle of words continues apace, but at programme asked his rival to oitch as struggting Bolton were

Bolton Wanderers

Ken Bates, the club's chairman, was absent ill and his haven after 11 minutes for the Ser- the face of the penalty area was boardroom adversary, Matthew bian Sasa Curcic, who advanced stroked in off a post by Gareth Harding, may have been suf- unhindered and accepted John Hall.

Exotic days in Wales: Jonah

Lomu appearing in Blaina; a galaxy of stars in Llanelli for

leuan Evans' testimonial and

last night Milan in Pontypridd

for the inaugural Heineken

European Cup. It was the first such match in the Principality

and Pontypridd became the first

Weish club to record a victory

Neil Jenkins kicked eight

penalties and converted the

only try of the match while the

visitors had a player sent off. For Milan, already beaten by Lein-

ster, it was arrivederchi.

but what a desperate, ugly affair

Rugby Union

TIM GLOVER

Pontypridd

fering from temporary blindness such was the flashbulb reception when he arrived to take his seat at the ground. Harding has promised to democratise the club by introducing a members' vote for chairmanship should he wrestle control, while Bates's notes from his sickbed in the

to the field in the early stages. a booking for a dive. The Ro-Chelsea's territory was a safe

night in the sticks. Heineken, as

they have done in the other

matches in the Cup, expect the

teams to play with a Gilbert ball

marked with the company's logo.

Pontypridd stubbornly refused,

arguing that they had not had a

chance to practice with the

Heineken version even though

One of the central figures in

their own was also a Gilbert.

a dire first half was the referee

Brian Campsall as he issued a

to keep an ill-tempered game

under control. The result was

simply a display of goal-kicking

between Jenkins and his oppo-

Jenkins kicked five penalties,

site number Dominguez.

flood of penalties in attempting

McGinlay's return pass before beating Dmitri Kharin with ease to put the visitors ahead.

Chelsea's response was equally fluent six minutes later, David Lee continuing a run from the back to slide home a cross from Dan Petrescu, Petrescu added another assist 15 minutes into the second half while the home manian's weighted ball across

The second half was not

much better with another spate

of penalties. Campsall finally

lost his patience, sending off Giovanelli in the 68th minute

for butting. Mercifully, Ponty-

pridd, having put the boot in

through Jenkins, finally applied

the stiletto with a try from

David Manley.

however, as eight minutes later ton from Mark Hughes's cross.

Scott Green was the second defender to find himself in strange-ly advanced territory. He headed home purposefully from Jimmy Phillips's cross. The decisive moment of the evening was another header, this one provided in the 87th minute by Eddie New-Chaisea (4-4-2): Kharin; Hall, Johnsen, Lee, Dubenry, Petrascu, Burley, (Spackman, 77). Newton, Wise; Suan (Furlong, 71). Hughes, Substitute not used: Hitchoock (glu), Belton Wanderers 14-4-2): Bengan; Tag-gart, Bengson, Faindough, Green; Philips, Pat-terson, Curcic, Todd; McGinley, Thompson. Substitutes and used: Davison (gli), Sneeles, McAnespie.

Jenkins' boot wins ugly contest Shaw suffers serious injury as Bristol buckle STEVE BALE

> Simon Shaw, the 6ft 9in England A lock, seriously dislocated his left ankle as Bristol subsided to defeat by South Africa's greatest - but also greatly below strength - provincial side at the Memorial Ground last night. The injury-prone 22-year-old will almost certainly have to miss the rest of the season.

Bristol

Transvaal

Someone up there did not Posttypridd: C Cormacic D Manley, J Lews, S Maintosh, G Jones; N Jerkins, Paul John; N Bezani (capt), Phil John, N Eynon, G Pross-er, M Rowley, M Spiller (R Collins, 20), M Lloyd, want this game to finish the right side of midnight. The kick-off had already been delayed by 15 minutes in order to accommo-P Thomas. Milliams; M Platania, F Gomez, M Tommasi, Marcello Cutitità; D Domunguez, M Bonomi; Massemo Cutitita (capt), A Marengoni, F Properal, P Pedront, F Berni, D Berstia, G Milano, M Glovanelli. date the hundreds queuing outside and then after eight minutes there was a partial floodlight failure.

With so many in the ground, the only decent thing the teams could do was to agree to play on. So, even though the fused lights were still not working, the game restarted in sepulchral gloom after a break of eight minutes.

Transvaal had been unhappy with the officiating of another West Country referee when they lost at Leicester, and last night Ashley Reay too had no trouble identifying South ceived prolonged attention be-fore being carried off on a stretcher and then taken away African transgressors even in the darkness. Transvaal thereby found it

hard to build any momentum and Bristol, although without the Springboks who beat Eng-the injured Martin Corry and land - Mulder, Dalton and the injured Martin Corry and their Welsh recruit Arwel Thomas playing sevens in Dubai, were regularly able to boot themselves in two decent attacking positions. Not that they then did much

whereas Joe Gillingham missed twice for Transvaal before succeeding at the third attempt. There followed a third delay while the stricken Shaw re-

by ambulance. Last season a knee injury put him out of the World Cup. Transvaal contained three of

Wiese - but you would never have guessed until Japie Mulder's penetrative run set up a critical try for Lee Stewart. Gillingham's conversion was followed by a Tainton penalty

Hockey Great Britain play Argentina, the pan-

American champions, at Reading tonight in the first of two internationals providing

Charles Rossouw peeled off a maul to touch down in the corner - but Reay had whistled at precisely the wrong moment to award a scrum to Transvaal.

Transvaal added a penalty try

when Bristol did not retire at a

penalty in front of their posts.

have reinforced their steadily

growing superiority when

The South Africans would

AWART A SCRUMT TO "TRANSVARA".

Bristol: Penelities Teinton A. Transvase! Titles
Steven, penelty by. Conversions Gillingham
2. Penelities Gefrigham 4.

Bristol: Phil Capit. I Keyler, N Manuel, D Winng,
G Sharp, M Tamton, K Bracker, A Sharp, M Regan, D Hinfors, S Shaw (P Adams, 38), G Arther,
C Berrow, E Rollit, J Pearson.

TRANSVARA: J Gillingham (Technikon); A
Hossaen (Rodocpoort), J Medice, C Scholtt,
J Loure, L van Renabung (Rand Afrikaans University), J Adissan Randformein); C Canapher
(Wanderes), J Dalton, I Hattlingh (Rand
Afrikaans University), J Wilese (capt, Pirates),
P van Westlagh (Rand Afrikaans University),
Charles Rossaunw (Germston), L Stewart
(Rodocpoort), D Krugler (Rand Afrikaans University),

(Rondepoorti, D Kruger (Rand Afr versity). Replacement: P Hoffman van Rensburg, 77. Referen: A Reay (Frome).

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS SPORTING DIGEST Badminton Parrott wins Lancashire's Chris Hunt has falled to

Man Utd (1) twin 27 McClek 47, 76 Backham 57 QPR (D) 30,009 Wimbledon (0) 23,617 .0 Liverpool (0) 24,324

Thompson Young 83 Southend (0) ... Regs 60 9,757 .2 Port Valle (0) ... Naylor 84 6,681 WDL F A PS 40115 4 12 22166 8 1222 2 5 5 023 4 12 2 **Ghar Zurich (1)...** Sublat 22

3 Printed State of the County One first round: LEAGUE OF WALLS CUIP Group One first round: Carradro 2 Bangir C; Corwy 1 Purthreadej 3, Group Plus first round: Ton Person 4 Show West Of WORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE First Dist

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LIMBSOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Droyladen
0 Barrow 4. First Division: Bactor PA 2 East-word 2.

at a canter from Thorne

John Parrott cleared another hurdle at the Royal Liver Assurance UK Championship at Preston yesterday but admitted: "If I was a horse there would probably be an investi-

Parrott, who headed off Willie Thorne 9-3 to reach the last 16, insisted: "I've been so unreliable this season I'm sure they will be hauling me before the Jockey Club. But I'm delighted to get the first two matches under my belt."

Parrott began the second session with a 7-1 advantage and though Thorne made breaks of 68 and 57 to come back to 7-3, Parrott finished off the match in another 32 minutes.

win 9-8.

Cricket

Football The Football Association will "continue to monitor" Brighton's future plans after a meeting with club officials at Lancaster Gate yesterday. The club, who have sold their Goldstone ground for redevelopment, told the FA they intend to stay in the Brighton area.

Lancashire's Chris Hunt has falled to reach the World Grand Prix finals in Sin-gapore – after deciding not to play in the Scottish Open, the final qualifying event. Paired with Simon Archer, he is nirth in the men's doubles rankings, and 10th in the mixed doubles, with Gallian Gow-ers, but only the top eight pairs for each event qualify.

Baskethall BRISHIPSEN
MBA: Toronto 102 Sessile 97; Chicago 108
Dallas 102 (oz); Derver 107 Atlanta 99; Portland 109 (A Lakers 108.
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CILIES' CUP sessifinal series, Group B: Pensthinohos (G) 79
Cibona Zagreb (Croa) 61.

TOUR MATCH (Mackey, Aus., first day of four): Queensland 277 for 7 (J P Maner 50, A Symonds 73) v Srl Lanka.

Dennis Taylor rolled back to stay in the strighton area.

Alan Stubbs, the 24-year-old central defender, has sighed an extension to incompact which will the him to Botton intit the middle of 1998. Keth Gillespie's new contract will keep him at Newcastle until 1999. the years with a vintage comeback victory over world No 8 Darren Morgan. Taylor battled back from 8-5 down to

S P O R T I N

THESDAY'S LATE RESIXTS: Icia League First
DMision: Aldershot 6 Barrion 2: Berking 1
Berkhamsted 2: Chestuan 2 Waysteierie 2;
Libhadge 2 Oxford City 2: Second DMisions: Bestford 3 Doring 1. Third Divisions: Coe 3 Wingstee
and Finching 1. Hind Divisions Coe 3 Wingstee
and Finching 1. Hind Divisions Coe 3 Wingstee
and Finching 1. Hind Divisions 1. Second Coe
Second Bear S. Watton and I Health Tour
Coe Teams United 3 Dubrich Homiet C; Wernbieg
2 Leytun Permant 3. Prestpannat, Crops: Billertory, Limitock 3 Guistelley 0. President's Cop
first rounch Bamber Bridge 4 Westmagnon 1. First
DMisloms Hampose Tour 1 Ferside 0. First Division Cap first round replaye Vortungson 3 Firstwood 0. Beanzer Homes Léngue President
DMisloms Rushden & Demondo 2 Burton 0. Hidsauson Coomby Longue First Divisions: Burgues
Hill 4 Fingree 1; Stondams 2 Langue President
Divisions: Entswood Firstham 2 Langue President
First Divisions: Entswood Firstham 1 President
Divisions: Entswood Firstham 2 Langue Ges second
round independent of Mislomson O Newcoste O. Peacl
Politicism: Entswood Firstham 1 President Demonstration
Francis Commissor Divisions: Cop time A
Printed To Weboch C; Politicism Demonstration
First Divisions: Business Charlest
First Divisions Andrewson O Newcoste Town 4
Printentian O Weboch C; Politicism O Designed Cap second
round: Kimpler Stephenson O Newcoste Town
A First Divisions Business President
Market Demonstration Commissor Demonstration
O Starribud 1: Long Burdey 2 Newtrampton Spence
of Starribud 1: Long Burdey 2 Newtrampton Spence
O Spatting 2 Postponsed Woothon v Reunde.
Cent Misch 1: Long Burdey 2 Newtrampton Spencer
O Starribud 2: Long Burdey 2 Newtrampton Spencer
O Oscen Town 1. Second-round replays: West Auchiend 2 Yorkshire Amateur 1: Henciely Athletic O Reunds 2; Sewbridgeworth 1 Furness 1 (act); Chairon 5; Sewbridgeworth 1 Furness 1 (act); Chairon 5; Rotherton 15; Person 1. Legion 0; Brachmell 1 Teuron 2. Fr. Youth Che Second round: Marchester Und 3 Rotherton 12; Queen's Park Regners 1 Confet C: Sunderland 4 Creve Alexandra 0. Ponthis League Second Division: Story Will 4 Burnley 2. Taland Division: Sourthope 4 Chesterfield 2; Donication O Streesbury 1. April Inagging Compilation First Division: Sourthope 5 Chesterfield 2; Donication O Streesbury 1. April Inaggings Compilation First Division: Sourthope 5.

the last Chance for players to win a place in the Olympic squad for the qualifying tournament in Barcelona in January. ARGENTIANA (* 68 Reeding, at Reading, toulght, 7-30): P Moreix, R Schnett, J Quete-jeta, E Paslos, F Morres, M Cadles, G Oroco, L Baccaro, J Lombi, G Muir, R Pere, G Miradeo, M Almeda, A Doheny (coot), D Ruiz, D Chodo.

Ice Inockey NHL: NY Rengers 9 Pemburgh 4; Buston 5 Win-negg 4; Florida 4 New Jersey 3; Preladebrinis 5 Los Angeles 2; Toronto 5 St. Louis 2; Westington 3 San Jose 2; Anahern 3 Calgary 2.

Motor racing
Jacques Villeneuve, the IndyCar title holder, marked his first drive in a Formula One Williams-Renault by upstaging Michael Schumacher, now with Ferrari, during testing in Estoril yesterday. Villeneuve, whose fastest lap was 1-22.80 minutes, will join Damon Hill next season, driving for Williams-Renault.

borner: DBS2.20. Pive awayer: 596.85, VERNOWS: Trebler: 249ts 5425.80, 22 513.25, 10 homes: 5435.80. Pive awayer: 561.10. BRITEDIS: Trebler: 249ts 546.00, 23 51.50. Roar draws: 51.50. Pive awayer: 5210.00. Eight homes: 523.30. ETTERS: Vasion: 24pts £80.85, 23 £1.80, Entry size £24.20. Four draws: £2.40, Eight homes: £28.60. Four aways: £55.80.

Regby Union Wade Dooley, the former England lock, is returning to his old club, Preston Grasshoppers. He has agreed to help out in a coaching capacity and will play in

Saturday's match at Liverpool St Helens Stain Moore, the discarded England hooker, will captain London's team to play the North at Wakefield on Saturday in the second round of the CS Divisional Chemptonships. Moore is one of seaso abouter institution the artifect of seven changes, including the entire front row and the half-backs, to the team that lost 36-34 to the Midlands last

that lost 36-34 to the Midlands last Weekend.

LONDON (v North, CIS Divisional Championship, Waterfield, Set 25 Nov): A Tunninghy (Saracers); D O'Lawry (Hariquins), N Greenstock (Weppel, P Monsale Hariquins), S Rober (Waspel, P Monsale Hariquins), S Rober (Waspel, D Pears D'artquins), B Moore (Hariquins, Capt), I Demston (Naspel), A Snow (Hariquins, Capt), I Demston (Naspel), A Snow (Hariquins, S Simer (Bristo), M White (Waspel, A Dignose (Sarquans), R Jenidas (Hariquins), STELL-SOUGERY SW (C Cambridge University, Grange Road, Cambridge, Wed 29 Nov): C Glasgow (Herritor), M Demsey (Bristo), K Legae (Stringer), Gibt P Burke (Cork, Constitution), N Hogan (Tennans College; & Habjin (Lordon Inst), J Hay (Hawci), K Colchoge (Shermen), M Poole Lescoster), M Heagt (Betr), C Gibtion (Glouces Lescoster), M Heagt (Betr), C Gibtion (Glouces Lordon), capt).

Scottish, capt). TOUR MATCH: Bristol 12 Transusal 26. FIVE NATIONS REINEXEN CUP POOL C: Pon-typridd 31 Milen 12, typnos 31 kmen 12, CLUB MATCHES: Rugby 25 Nuneation 17; Chel-tenhom 8 Veel Triange (SA) 8.

SNAME AND OPEN (Karachi) First round: Innsi-or Khan (Pak) bt C Varder Welm (SA) 15-9 15-8 17-15; R Blass (Aus) bt C Valgorius (SA) 15-9 15-13 11-15 15-11; C Walter (Eng) bt Ums Zamen (Pak) 15-6 15-9 15-8; A Fathern (Nan 640) bt J Bone-

STIPODING)*

ROYAL LIVER ASSURANCE UK CHAMPONISHEP (Presidos) Second round: C Small (Scot) bt M Powerder (Engl.)

9-3: R O'Sullwan (Engl.) bt P Daves (Mail.)

9-4: D Tawlor (Mail.)

(N Int) bt D Morgan (Mail.)

9-4: D Tawlor (N Int)

H Hamitton (Engl.)

9-3: N Bond (Engl.) bt T Knowles

Engl. 9-3: N Bond (Engl.) bt T Knowles

WORLD DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Bindbowen, Neth) Red Group: 1 T Woodbridge and M Woodforde (Aus) by T Ho and B Steven (US and NZ) 6-7 6-3 6-2 C SuA and D Vaces (Cz Rep) by M Knowles and D Nastor (Ban and Carr) 6-3 7-5. Blue Broup: 1 Dungh and P Haamus (Neth) by L Lobo and J Sanchez (Wig and Sp) 7-5 6-1; G Connell and P Gattrach (Czn and US) by R Leach and S Metwille (US) 6-3 6-2.

Weightifting
word of Characteristics (Quanganou, China,
winners ordy: Men's 83 kg. Statich: M hister (Get 175.0 kg. Clean and Jorko Press 212.5.
Total: Demas 385.0. Women's 70 kg. category: Snatzh: It Hongyun (China) 97.5 kg. Clean
and Jork: Teng 127.5. Total: 1 Teng 225.0.

WHY THIS MAN'S HELMET WILL NOT SAVE HIM FROM EXTINCTION

John Roberts on the latest tennis technology



RAC RALLY: Scot masters the tracks of North Wales to pull away from Spanish rival and become Britain's first world champion

McRae's mastery makes history

reports from Chester

Colin McRae held his nerve and his ground through the most important stages of his career yesterday and then cruised into Chester to take his place in sporting history – as Britain's first world rally champion.

The final, tense examinations of the Network Q RAC Rally, through North Wales, were negotiated with the assurance that had distinguished McRae from the rest and, in particular, from his Subaru team-mate, Carlos Sainz, the one man who stood between the 27-year-old Scot and the title.

McRae completed his mission in the manner of a champion: fast, decisive, imperious:

eventually reaching here 36 seconds clear of the Spaniard. He won 17 of the 28 stages, shrugging off the handicap of a puncture that cost him almost two minutes on the second day.

Having achieved the breakthrough of winning the RAC 12 months ago, the first British win-ner for 18 years, McRae was favourite to repeat that feat this week. This time, however, the championship, the ultimate landmark, depended on the outcome. Expectation and pressure were heaped on his shoulders. He had conceded the previous rally, in Spain, to Sainz on team orders and arrived here level on points with his sta-

ble-mate but behind on wins. He had to beat Sainz and had for error. McRae met the chal- I was able to keep up my speed man who had been dragged lenge with unflinching self-be-lief, making light of the daunting forests stages, the mist and the mud, and gradually wearing down what re-mained of Sainz's resolve.

All Sainz could do was maintain his own pace in the hope that McRae would overstretch and come to grief. Early in his career he might have done so, but not now. McRae, the au-After stepping from his car at

the victory ramp at Chester racecourse, McRae said: "This has been our goal and it's a great day not only for me but the whole team. This has made it all

We had that problem with the puncture and for a while it was looking doubtful, but then

and I was always quite confident. In some rallies you just click, and this is one of them for me. I've been quickest here for four years. Two minutes in a world championship is a lifetime but I wouldn't let it beat me.

"Now we've done it, we've got to look ahead. Maybe it will be even easier next year, because you become more confident and I'll certainly be as hungry to win it again. "Hopefully this will raise the

stature of rallying in this country, as championships have in other sports. I believe rallying is on a par with Formula One and the attention of media coverage should be on the same level as Formula One."

Sainz, twice winner of the championship, looked like a

through the forests of Britain for four days. In a sense, he had been. "All season it has been dif-ficult for me, especially after in-juring my shoulder in a mountain-bike accident and having to miss a rally. All I could

do was try my best and think perhaps Colin would make a mistake," he said. "But he got a little luck and to win you always need that. He drove a superb rally. We tried to the last stage, but I always knew it was going to be difficult here."

David Richards, head of the Prodrive team that run the Subaru operation, and the man who decided Sainz had to win the Catalunya Rally for "commercial reasons," might have felt relief as much as elation. He said he did not, but admitted:

"I'm happy for many reasons, and that has to be part of it. But I don't want to dwell on that.
"You couldn't have written

the script better for us or Colin. This is his first championship, but by the looks of it I'd say it won't be his last.

Colin was quite clearly taking risks and Carlos knew one mistake could hand it to him but in the end it is a very special day for Britain." McRae, having regained the lead in Tuesday's final stage, re-

sumed his course yesterday morning with utter conviction. A 17-second advantage became 38 in four more leaps of the North Wales tracks and the contest was effectively over. Subaru's manufacturers' championship triumph was comleted with Richard Burns' third place and Alister McRae

be proud of with fourth place in his Ford Escort. Both McRaes prepared

themselves for a appropriate celebration. Colin had already discussed in his car with co-driver Derek Ringer, the matter of who would be paying.
McRae added: "One thing I

do know, it's going to be the biggest party of all time."

McRae's self-control, page 30



Le Saux and **Batty shame Blackburn**

Football

Spartak Moscow Blackburn Rovers

Blackburn's woeful European Champions' League campaign continued with the dismissal of Colin Hendry and a near-farci-cal fight between Graeme Le Saux and David Batty as Spartak Moscow maintained their 100 per cent record in Group B of the European Champions' League last night.

Hendry was sent off for a professional foul on Andre Tikhonov, but even that was overshadowed by the astonishing incident involving Le Saux and his England team-mate Batty after just four minutes.

The two players went for the same ball clattering into each other as it ran into touch. They traded insults, moving on to pushing and shoving and then the full-back appeared to throw a left hook into Batty's throat. Tim-Sherwood, the Blackburn captain, came racing in to separate them as Le Saux appeared to be winding up for another blow.

apart Le Saux and Batty continued to shout at each other and the fractious nature of the Blackburn dressing room was also indicated 23 minutes later when Hendry and Sherwood squared up to each other after the skipper had lost possession and then

committed a foul 25 yards out. The Batty-Le Saux affair summed up all that had gone wrong for Rovers in their campaign, but if the lessons needed to be made clearer they were in the shape of the goals from Dmitri Alenitchev, Yuri Nikiforov and Ramiz Mamedov.

Alenitchev opened their account in the 28th minute. Ilia Tsimbalar, whom Harford has admitted is a possible £2m target, slipped the ball forward to Alenitchev, who cut inside Le Saux and rolled the ball home through the legs of Henning Berg as Tim Flowers came off his line.

Their pace was altogether too much for Blackburn in the second half and their all-round talent was exemplified by Nicky Forlove's goal in the 47th minute. The cultured defender picked up the ball on the halfway line and galloped down the right before laying off to Alenitchev, sprinting for the return and drilling the ball home.

Seven minutes later it was Mamedov who played the giveand-go with Alenitchev, and his finish was just as emphatic.

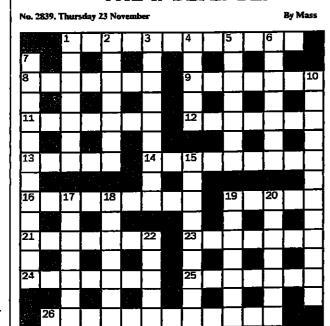
Le Saux was then replaced by Matty Holmes and Berg was booked for a crude lunge on Alenitchev. Fourteen minutes from time, after Holmes had gone close, the humiliation was complete when Hendry received his marching orders. Substitute Valeri Ketchinov played the ball forward, Tikhonov got goal-side when Hendry brought him crashing down on the edge of the box the Italian referee Pierre Luigi Pairetto had no hesitation in showing him the red card.

"We came here as also-rans and it wasn't easy, but Spartak proved they were by far and away the best team in the group," Hendry said later.



More reports, results, page 31 Tim Sherwood attempts to calm Graeme Le Saux (right) and David Batty in Moscow last night

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Company man, tainted,

- unusually corrupt (12) 8 Eyeing up General and
- the Confederacy (7)
 9 Pop's just like that, in a
- tizzy (7) 11 Bellicose lawman's audi-
- ble (7) 12 Figure prior to the German's bids (7)
- at (5)
- 14 Cop with a little power in trendy division (9)
- 19 State's chief source of
- energy (5) 21 Wander with tinker round Australia (7)

Mafia boss (9)

26 A formula familiar to a chemist? (12)

all the time? (7)

- Be fair and explain (5.2) 13 Hint I'm having to work 2 Curiously one's interrupted, shrilly (7)
- Reeling he flings after possible catch? (5-4) 16 Gadding forth with aged 4 Unfit for game, Italian's out (5)
 - 5 Score according to plan 6 În centre a tramp ap-

pears to beg (7)

- 7 We're sport for the gods. 23 Sign for catch brought you might say (7.5) 10 Set adrift as tide changes back into harbour (7) 24 Issues containing clear around East (12) verse forms (7) 25 Is he likely to employ me 15 Refuse cash and paper
 - that's countefeit (9) 17 Water carried by red mounted gutter (7) 18 Focus on sermon (7) 19 Minorca's eccentric in-
 - ventor (7) 20 One European - in name, a Spaniard (7) 22 Increment's right, and it mounts up (5)

Brilliant Goram cannot prevent Rangers' exit

DAVID MCKINNEY

Rangers Steaua Bucharest

Events elsewhere decreed that Rangers' efforts last night were worthless in terms of qualifying for the latter stages of the European Cup. The Scottish champions were unable to conjure a winner for themselves while at the same time they were indebted to their goalkeeper, Andy Goram, for a series of spectacular saves.

Ultimately, however, Rangers have so far been unable to prise a victory from the toughest Champions' League group and have been climinated after Borussia Dortmund's astonishing win in Turin last night, which rendered the meeting of the German and Scottish champions a meaningless exercise.

The Romanians, as aware of the need for victory as Rangers, set out to attack from the start forcing Goram into action on three occasions within the first 12 minutes. He came off his line

to deny Bucurel Ilie then produced a fine save from Daniel Prodan, who wheeled and shot from a Marius Lacatus free-kick. Goram's third involvement was to push away an angled drive from Damian Militaru.

Rangers, inevitably stung by the visitors audacity, looked to the mercurial skills of Brian Laudrup to provide an opening, yet when the Dane freed David Robertson on the left the fullback's cross lacked conviction and then a deep ball from Laudrup found no takers.

Both sides demonstrated more of a willingness to attack than they had when they last met in September, and in scoring in the 32nd minute Rangers received a maximum return from their big-money men, Laudrup and Paul Gascoigne. The opening goal was a classic Gazza moment. He accepted a pass from Laudrup five yards inside the Romanian half, spotted a gap through the middle of the defence and attacked with a vengeance, finishing with a low shot past the goalkeeper.

were unlucky not to extend their lead when the Romanian goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea saved from Robertson at close range, then got up to push away a curled shot from the full back. From the resultant corner Gordan Petric saw his header swept off the line.

Ally McCoist was denied the chance of becoming Rangers' top scorer in European competition by a flying save from the goalkeeper within a minute of the restart. Scarcely had Rangers re-covered from that than they found themselves on level terms. Ilie broke through the defence, showing a wonderful turn of pace, before flicking the ball past Goram and into the net off his left-hand post. Goram produced a breathtaking save three minutes later to deny Damian Militaru.

Rangers (3-5-2): Goram; Gough, Brown (Bollan, 75), Petric McLaren, Durrant (Milter, h-t), Gascolgne, McCall (Murray, 86), Robert-son; McCost, Lauding.

Steaus Bucharest (4-4-2); Stelea; Fitpes-cu, Csis, Dobos, Proden; Militaru (Rosu, 90), Bucur, Ille (Hagy, 75), Prvu; Lacatus (Radu-can, 87), Vladiou.

Great demand for Euro 96 tickets

Organisers of the European Championship yesterday re-vealed that demand for tickets for England's group matches -which will all be played at Wembley - has been rapid, tive quarter-final and semi-fin with 86 per cent of tickets sold. opponents will be revealed.

Aftens Read Watford

A massive surge for tickets is expected after the draw for the championship finals takes place in Birmingham on 17 December - when England's prospec-tive quarter-final and semi-final

England will stay at Wembley if they top their group, al-though if they finish as quarter-final at Antield on 22 June and semi-final at Old Trafford on 26 June.

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United close gap on leaders with a flourish

PHIL SHAW

Coventry City Manchester United

Newcastle must be starting to feel Manchester United's hot breath on their necks. Last night's four-goal flourish at Highfield Road took United's run of unbeaten games against Coventry to 13, but far more importantly it halved the Premiership leaders' advantage over Alex Ferguson's side to a

mere three points. Interest initially centred on the reunion of Eric Cantona and Richard Shaw, who was fouled by the Frenchman in the prelude to his kung-fu antics at Crystal Palace in January. Shaw, making his home debut, was so harassed by Ryan Giggs that the pair were seldom within 10

yards of each other. After so long without a win their only three-point haul came against Manchester's other half in August - Coventry's tentative start was understandable. After surviving pressure in which Cantona poked a shot wide, they began to respond to the promptings of the 38-yearold Gordon Strachan and might have scored three times is as many minutes midway through the first half.

Dion Dublin, like Strachan facing his former club, first saw Peter Schmeichel dive full length to tip over a 25-yard drive. The keeper then had to dash from goal to block John Salako's angled effort, and was indebted to Steve Bruce's goal-line

in a crowded six-yard area. Having weathered the Sky Blues storm, United hit back to take a 27th-minute lead after Coventry failed to clear a Giggs corner. Gary Pallister laid the ball back to Denis Irwin, lurking 22 yards out, and the full-back's

right-footed shot found the net

like a heat-seeking missile. A blunder by Marcus Hall, who passed straight to Giggs, led to United doubling their advantage two minutes into the second half. A sublime reverse pass by the Welshman - with his underused right-foot - picked out a perfectly timed run by Brian McClair. Recalled for the injured Paul Scholes, McClair celebrated by burying a low drive from 12 yards.

Another brilliantly incisive pass, by the increasingly influential Cantona, set up the third al shortly before the hour. Nicky Butt fell into David Rennie as he shielded it, causing Coventry to hesitate as they appealed for a foul. The whistle never came, and David Beckham capped a performance which oozed authority by unleashing a diagonal drive past Ogrizovic.

With 14 minutes remaining, McClair collected his second and United's fourth. Giggs and Cantona were inevitably involved, the latter crossing from the left for the unmarked Scot to head home.



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